

NORTHEAST UTILITIES SYSTEM  
Form SC 13G/A  
February 11, 2004

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G/A

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934\*

Northeast Utilities

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

-----  
(Title of Class of Securities)

664397106

-----  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2003

-----  
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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CUSIP No. 664397106  
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13G

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-----  
NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
1. S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Strauss, Inc.  
752403190

-----  
CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (See Instructions)  
2. (a)   
(b)

-----  
SEC USE ONLY  
3.

-----  
CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
4. A Nevada corporation

-----  
SOLE VOTING POWER  
5. NUMBER OF

SHARES  
-----  
BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY  
-----  
EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING PERSON  
-----  
WITH 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
-----

-----  
AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
9.

-----  
CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES  
10. (See Instructions)

-----  
PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)  
11.

-----  
TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (See Instructions)  
12. IA

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- Item 1(a) Name of Issuer:  
Northeast Utilities
- 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
174 Brush Hill Avenue  
West Springfield, MA 01090-0010
- Item 2(a) Name of Person Filing:  
Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Strauss, Inc.
- 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence:  
One McKinney Plaza  
3232 McKinney Avenue, 15th Floor  
Dallas, TX 75204-2429
- 2(c) Citizenship:  
A Nevada corporation
- 2(d) Title of Class of Securities:  
Common Stock
- 2(e) CUSIP Number:  
664397106
- Item 3 If this statement is filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b):  
The reporting person is an Investment Adviser registered under  
Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

Item 4 Ownership:

- 4(a) Amount beneficially owned:
- 4(b) Percent of Class:
- 4(c) Number of shares as to which person has:
- (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:

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- (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:
- (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
- (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
- 

Item 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class: [X]

Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:

The right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the common stock is held by certain clients of the reporting person, none of which has such right or power with respect to five percent or more of the common stock.

Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the

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Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company:

Not Applicable

Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:

Not Applicable.

Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group:

Not Applicable.

Item 10 Certification:

By signing below the undersigned certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

BARROW, HANLEY, MEWHINNEY &  
STRAUSS, INC.

By: /s/ James P. Barrow  
Name: James P. Barrow  
Title: President

February 10, 2004

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