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NORTHEAST UTILITIES  
Form SC 13G/A  
February 14, 2005

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
(AMENDMENT NO. 2) \*

Northeast Utilities System  
(NAME OF ISSUER)

COMMON STOCK  
(TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES)

664397106  
(CUSIP NUMBER)

December 31, 2004  
(DATE OF EVENT WHICH REQUIRES FILING OF THIS STATEMENT)

Check the 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 in 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).

|              |     |      |    |       |
|--------------|-----|------|----|-------|
| CUSIP NUMBER | 13G | PAGE | OF | PAGES |
| 664397106    |     |      |    |       |

|   |   |                        |
|---|---|------------------------|
| 1 | NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS                                     | Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC |
|   | I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS<br>(entities only) | 13-5620131             |

|   |  |                    |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 2 | CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP | (a) / /<br>(b) / / |
|---|--|--------------------|

|   |              |  |
|---|--------------|--|
| 3 | SEC USE ONLY |  |
|---|--------------|--|

|   |                                      |          |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 4 | CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION | NEW YORK |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|

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|   |  |                          |            |
|---|--|--------------------------|------------|
| NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH | 5  | SOLE VOTING POWER        | 10,606,677 |
|   | 6  | SHARED VOTING POWER      | 0          |
|   | 7  | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER   | 10,606,677 |
|   | 8  | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER | 0          |
| 9   | AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON         |                          | 10,606,677 |
| 10  | CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES |                          | / / N/A    |
| 11  | PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)                    |                          | 8.26%      |
| 12  | TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON<br>IA                                       |                          |            |

ITEM 1.

- (a) NAME OF ISSUER  
Northeast Utilities System
- (b) ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
174 Brush Hill Avenue  
West Springfield, MA 01090

ITEM 2.

- (a) NAME OF PERSON FILING  
Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC
- (b) ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
90 Hudson Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07302
- (c) CITIZENSHIP  
New York
- (d) TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
Common Stock
- (e) CUSIP NUMBER  
664397106

ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 240.13d-1(b) OR 240.13d-2(b) OR (c), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A:

- (e) An investment adviser in accordance with Section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E)

ITEM 4. OWNERSHIP

- (a) See No. 9
- (b) See No. 11

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(c)

- (i) See No. 5
- (ii) See No. 6
- (iii) See No. 7
- (iv) See No. 8

ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF A CLASS

N/A

ITEM 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON

N/A

ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY OR CONTROL PERSON.

N/A

ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

N/A

ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP

N/A

ITEM 10. CERTIFICATION

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my 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.

SIGNATURE

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

February 2, 2005

-----  
DATE

/s/ Paul. A. Hilstad

-----  
SIGNATURE

General Counsel

-----  
TITLE