



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 22, 1992

Ivan Selin, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin,

I am writing in regard to Northeast Utilities' takeover of Public Service Co. of New Hampshire.

I must admit I have grave doubts about the NRC's approval of the merger because I believe that it could further escalate electric rates and because nuclear safety -- at Seabrook and NU's four Connecticut nuclear power plants -- may be sacrificed.

My prime concern about the merger remains the financial impact on Western Massachusetts Electric Co. ratepayers. They did not ask their electric company to take over Seabrook -- and they certainly did not want a takeover of a utility in such dire financial straights as Public Service Co. of New Hampshire.

In order to make sure that those concerns are adequately addressed, I urge the NRC to require a report examining the merger's financial impact on western Massachusetts ratepayers. It's vitally important from my perspective to have a detailed analysis of how the merger will affect WMECO and what it will cost ratepayers. I would ask that a provision requiring the preparation of that report be included in the document that lays out the terms and conditions for the merger.

It is my understanding that an internal document recently distributed to NU employees projected that the company could fall \$728 million short of what is needed to run the utility business over the next five years.

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CORRESPONDENCE PDR



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In my mind, that business plan is a warning. If the utility company does run into severe financial problems, NU will undoubtedly be seeking state Department of Public Utilities' approval to have ratepayers foot the bill to bail the company out. I find that unacceptable, and I'm sure that WMECO customers -- who have seen their electric bills steadily increase over the past several years -- wholeheartedly agree. That's why it is so critical to require a financial impact report that will provide assurances that the interests of WMECO ratepayers will be protected.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Buell".

CARMEN BUELL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE