



**Northeast  
Utilities System**

P. O. Box 270  
Hartford, CT 06141-0270  
107 Selden Street  
Berlin, CT 06037  
(860)-665-5000  
[www.nu.com](http://www.nu.com)

## News Release

### CONTACTS:

Jeffrey R. Kotkin  
Northeast Utilities  
860-665-5154

Al Lara  
Northeast Utilities  
860-665-5527

Meghan Jordan  
The American Chestnut Foundation  
828-281-0047

## **Northeast Utilities shareholders who go paperless will help restore the American chestnut tree**

*A planted tree for every e-mailed annual report, proxy*

**BERLIN, Conn., Sept. 27, 2006** – The American chestnut – once among the most common and versatile trees in the eastern United States, producing straight, pest-resistant wood valued by craftsmen and often used for utility poles – was decimated by blight 50 years ago. Science is now trying to help the tree stage a comeback.

To support that effort, Northeast Utilities (NYSE: NU) is sending a letter this week to 50,000 registered shareholders offering to make a \$5 donation to The American Chestnut Foundation for each shareholder who elects to receive the company's annual report and proxy materials in electronic form to reduce NU's use of paper. Each donation represents the approximate per-shareholder savings in annual printing and mailing costs – money that will instead be used to plant an American chestnut tree in Connecticut, where 40 percent of NU's shareholders reside. The offer is open to shareholders whose shares are registered through the company and not in brokerage accounts.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to promote the revival of a great American tree while also providing greater convenience for our shareholders,” said Charles W. Shivery, NU chairman, president, and chief executive officer.

The American chestnut was once the dominant tree in forests from Maine to Florida. Earlier generations recalled trees over 100 feet tall and forest floors covered in chestnuts. The tree grew strong and straight and was resistant to pests and rot. Utility companies including NU's subsidiaries historically used poles made from the trees to carry electric power lines. In the early 1900s, an Asian fungus began killing the trees, and by the 1950s the trees were nearly completely gone. Today, naturally-growing trees that escaped infection are rare.

The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) was founded in 1983 with the goal of restoring the American chestnut. It is breeding the American chestnut with Chinese chestnut trees to produce a blight-resistant tree that is 97-percent American chestnut. TACF's Connecticut chapter has created two orchards in Connecticut using native trees, and five more orchards are planned next spring.

More information about the American chestnut and foundation is available at the TACF website, [www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org). NU shareholders can sign up for electronic delivery of annual report materials and [www.proxyconsent.com/nu](http://www.proxyconsent.com/nu).

*Northeast Utilities (NYSE: NU) is a Fortune 500 diversified energy company located in Connecticut with operations throughout the Northeast. Through our regulated and competitive subsidiaries, NU provides Energy for a Changing World, with a full range of energy products and services to millions of residential and business customers. NU is committed to safety, reliability and expanding consumers' energy options. For more information on Northeast Utilities and our subsidiaries, visit the NU family of Web sites at [www.nu.com](http://www.nu.com).*

###