

Document 1145

[21145001]

Northeast Utilities raised its bid for Public Service Co. of New Hampshire, which is operating under Bankruptcy Code protection, to \$ 2.25 billion from \$ 1.85 billion.

[21145002]

Northeast's raised bid, which was supported by PS of New Hampshire's official shareholder committee, is a prelude to what is expected to be a round of higher bids by the other groups trying to acquire the company, the largest utility in New Hampshire.

[21145003]

The \$ 2.25 billion value claimed by Northeast, based in Hartford, Conn., is the highest yet given to a bid.

[21145004]

Some of the three other bidding groups are expected to increase their offers tomorrow, a date set for revised offers by a bankruptcy court judge.

[21145005]

A hearing is set for Nov. 15, but participants do n't expect a resolution until July 1990.

[21145006]

Under the new Northeast Utilities plan, it would pay \$ 1.65 billion in cash to creditors and assume \$ 100 million in pollution control bonds.

[21145008]

The biggest change in Northeast's offer was in improvements made for equity holders who had been given short shrift previously.

[21145009]

Assuming full operation of the Seabrook nuclear power plant, which is completed but is n't yet operating, equity holders would receive up to \$ 500 million in cash, preferred stock and new 10-year Seabrook bonds.

[21145010]

Northeast's previous offer had proposed that equity holders receive just \$ 165 million.

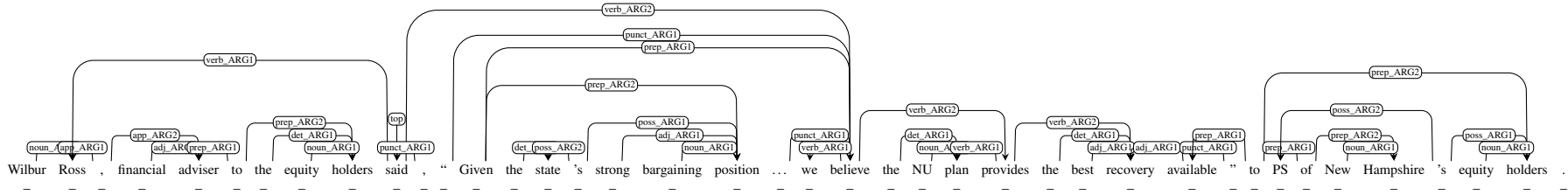
[21145011]

In addition, Northeast promised the State of New Hampshire that rate increases would be limited to 5.5 % annually for seven years.

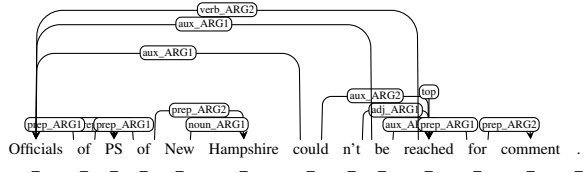
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Its previous proposal had conditioned rate limits on Seabrook operations and other contingencies.

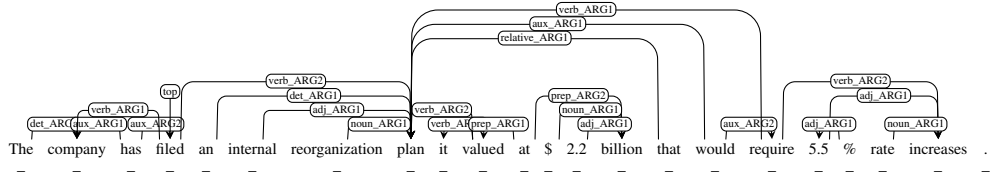
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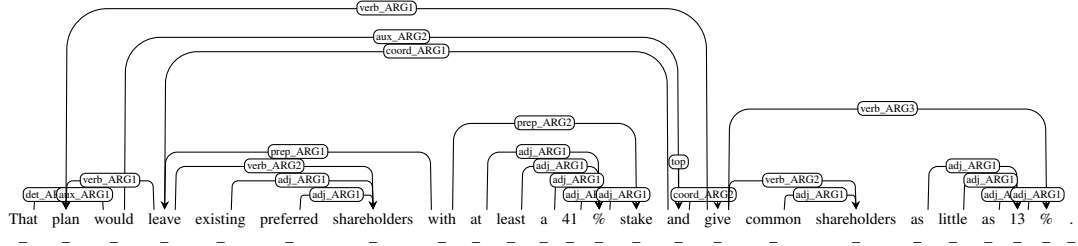
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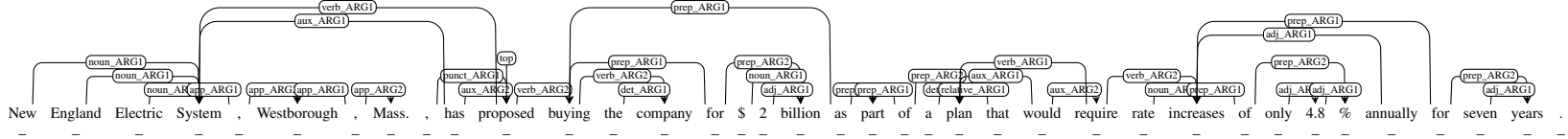
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