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**Subject:** Cold Snap: PSNH Power Plants keeping the lights on...  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## PSNH Power Plant Fleet Called on During Cold Snap

### *Aviation-Fueled Turbines Help to Fill Natural Gas Void*

**MANCHESTER, N.H., January 23, 2014** -- Public Service of New Hampshire's entire electricity generation fleet is in operation this week to help meet a critical regional energy demand resulting from the prolonged cold snap.

Extremely low temperatures combined with insufficient pipeline capacity to satisfy New England's increased dependence on natural gas, have prompted regional energy administrator ISO-New England to take what may be an historic measure--asking PSNH to fire up all of its larger power-generating facilities at Merrimack Station in Bow, Schiller Station in Portsmouth, and Newington Station, as well as infrequently-used combustion turbine facilities at Merrimack Station, Lost Nation (Groveton), and White Lake (Tamworth), for an extended period of time. Several of the combustion turbines are powered by aviation 'jet' fuel.

"This is an extremely unusual situation," says PSNH Vice President - Generation, William Smagula. "Our combustion turbines are each capable of generating 20 megawatts of power, enough energy for about 15-thousand average homes. They typically run only briefly, when demand peaks during heat waves, for example. I don't believe a day-ahead request to be available for 15 hours has ever occurred."



Merrimack Station, Bow, NH

According to ISO-New England, about 75 percent of the region's natural gas electrical generation capability was not running Thursday, presumably due to limited gas supply and/or high prices. When market prices for natural gas spike during times of high demand, Smagula says PSNH's facilities provide ISO-New England with a lower-cost alternative, which benefits PSNH customers. "There is no question that the New England system is severely stressed at the moment," Smagula says, "but our entire fleet continues to perform well and provide great value to New Hampshire customers, by keeping the lights on and costs stable."

PSNH is the only New England utility that still owns and operates its power generation facilities, a diverse fleet that is not dependent on natural gas. The state-regulated power plants, including biomass, coal, oil and nine hydroelectric facilities, are jointly capable of generating 1,150 megawatts

of electricity to the regional grid.  
According to ISO-New England, customer demand on Wednesday reached 20,949 megawatts, and a peak demand of more than 22,000 megawatts was anticipated Thursday evening.

*Public Service of New Hampshire, a Northeast Utilities company (NYSE:NU), is New Hampshire's largest electric utility, serving more than 500,000 homes and businesses in 211 cities and towns. For more information, please visit [psnh.com](http://psnh.com) or [psnhnews.com](http://psnhnews.com), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*

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