

464 megawatts (for comparison, the Connecticut Valley Electric Exchange (Convex), consisting of the applicants and the United Illuminating Company, had a load of 2,700 megawatts) (Tr. 1264; Ex. 109, column "1965," line 12). Five of the municipals operate generating plants which have a total capacity of 130 megawatts (Tr. 1264). The balance of the municipals' power requirement (i.e., some 72 percent of their 1965 load) is purchased from investor-owned utilities.

James E. Baker, policy witness for the Massachusetts municipals, testified that his group is engaged in a continuing effort to obtain a source of bulk power. Aside from seeking to purchase peaking power from the Northfield Mountain project, the municipals have negotiated through Vermont-New England Power Corporation for a block of base load hydropower from Canada. They are also trying to get an interest in new nuclear plants, which increasingly will become New England's basic bulk power source. These plants are too large for any one utility in the region to install conveniently, and several utilities combine to sponsor them, each taking a "piece" of the output. The plants are built and operated by separate corporations which are wholly owned by the sponsoring