Those utilities account for about 80 percent of the power available in New England (Tr. 345). There are 13 members on the committee, three of whom represent applicants (Ex. 128). The Committee establishes task forces for the purpose of studying particular subjects. For example, there has been a task force on the purchase of Canadian power and a task force on 1980 peaking capacity (Ex. 129). The members of the task forces are personnel of the utilities having representatives on the committee. Consulting firms sometimes are engaged by a company or jointly by several companies to conduct studies for the committee or one of its task forces (Tr. 316-317).

The Council itself, organized in 1947, is a group of the chief executives of investor-owned utilities which operate chiefly within the New England states (Tr. 313-314; Ex. 6, pp. 2 and 5). There currently are 19 members of the Council, including the three board chairmen of the applicant companies (Ex. 126). The Council has an annual meeting, and other meetings are held occasionally, perhaps three or four times a year (Tr. 317). The organization's greatest activity has consistently been in its Planning Committee (Tr. 338). There is also a Connecticut River Watershed Committee and a Public Information Committee (Ex. 127). The latter committee is organized and functions in somewhat the same way as the