



Mr. President, I would like to bring to the Senate's attention that Guy W. Nichols, Chairman of the New England Electric System, has been named New Englander of the Year by the New England Council, Inc. the region's leading business and industry association.

Mr. Nichols, whose company provides electric power to more than one million customers in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire, received the award this year in recognition of his many contributions to the New England economy.

I would like to cite a few of those contributions.

Mr. Nichols has been a leader in New England and the nation in voluntary efforts to convert oil-burning generating units to domestic coal in an economical and environmentally sound manner. Six of his company's generating units have been converted to coal. This has reduced New England's dependence on foreign oil by approximately 14 million barrels per year. By making use of state-of-the-art environmental protection equipment, this conversion to coal has resulted in an improvement in air quality.

Mr. Nichols has helped create more than 1,000 jobs for New England by initiating the construction of New England Electric's own coal-fired, coal-carrying ship to deliver coal supplies to its power plants. This U.S. flag vessel, which is now operational, is helping assure a reliable, embargo-proof supply of domestic fuel for the company's coal-fired generating units.

Mr. Nichols' was one of the first utility leaders in the nation to embrace renewable energy sources such as small hydro, wind, and solid waste, as viable power supply options. His company has signed five contracts for purchase of power from trash-burning facilities, for example. To the best of my knowledge, no other utility in the

United States has surpassed this record.

Mr. Nichols is also taking a leadership role in the effort to bring relatively low cost surplus hydroelectric power from Quebec to New England. His company will build and finance a major portion of the international transmission tieline between New England and Quebec's extensive hydroelectric facilities. This power will be of great value to New England consumers in terms of lower energy costs.

Mr. Nichols has actively encouraged energy conservation among New England's homeowners, businesses, and industries. This year, his company sponsored a competition for the design of energy-efficient houses suited to New England's unique climate. More than 180 entries were submitted, and the winning designs are now being made available to consumers. Under Mr. Nichol's leadership, New England Electric has also expanded its grant program for weatherization improvements to electrically-heated homes and has demonstrated energy conservation measures to thousands of consumers as its two conservation houses in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Mr. Nichols has made an important contribution to the effort to improve the economy of Rhode Island, the New England state which has been particularly hard-hit by high unemployment levels and a decline in industrial activity. Mr. Nichols was a guiding force in the development of his company's multi-faceted action plan designed to boost the state's economy. The plan's primary feature is a 20 percent discount on basic electric rates to industries that provide new jobs either through expansion or through the state of new operations in Rhode Island.

I applaud Guy W. Nichols' many contributions to the economic health of the New England region, and am pleased to acknowledge his selection as the New England Council's New Englander of the Year for 1983.