

**NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY
PLYMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023 AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY

CONTENTS

Independent Auditor’s Report.....	1
Consolidated Balance Sheets	3
Consolidated Statements of Operations	5
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Members’ Equity.....	6
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	7
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.....	9

March 25, 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Board of Directors
New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of **New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary**, which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in members' equity, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the consolidated financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the consolidated financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatements of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., LLC
McNAIR, McLEMORE, MIDDLEBROOKS & CO., LLC

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
DECEMBER 31

ASSETS
(In Thousands)

	2024	2023
Utility Plant		
Utility Plant, at Cost	\$ 485,293	\$ 459,690
Construction Work in Progress	55,212	20,389
	540,505	480,079
Gross Utility Plant		
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	(205,085)	(193,067)
	335,420	287,012
Other Property and Investments		
Investments in Associated Organizations	10,368	10,734
Nonutility Property, Net	14,203	7,748
Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions	699	226
Other	738	830
	26,008	19,538
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	983	1,501
Accounts Receivable (Net of Allowance for Credit Losses Losses of \$316 and \$393 in 2024 and 2023, Respectively)	22,670	30,568
Materials and Supplies	15,335	12,086
Other	2,651	2,494
	41,639	46,649
Deferred Debits	14,492	7,214
Total Assets	\$ 417,559	\$ 360,413

See accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
DECEMBER 31

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES
(In Thousands)

	2024	2023
Equities		
Patronage Capital	\$ 142,320	\$ 138,738
Other Equities	5,295	5,276
	147,615	144,014
Long-Term Liabilities		
Long-Term Debt	183,114	124,662
Long-Term Operating Lease Obligations	4,307	4,099
	187,421	128,761
Current Liabilities		
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	9,692	6,709
Current Maturities of Long-Term Operating Lease Obligations	587	297
Lines-of-Credit	24,849	25,303
Accounts Payable	22,952	30,379
Member Deposits	2,172	2,155
Other Current Liabilities	5,393	6,158
	65,645	71,001
Deferred Credits	16,878	16,637
Total Equities and Liabilities	\$ 417,559	\$ 360,413

See accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31
(In Thousands)

	2024	2023
Operating Revenues	\$ 175,460	\$ 183,120
Operating Expenses		
Cost of Power	56,771	76,017
Transmission Expense	29,830	25,206
Distribution Operations	5,812	5,949
Distribution Maintenance	17,589	15,881
Consumer Accounts	2,622	2,538
Consumer Service and Information	129	113
Administrative and General	29,224	28,583
Depreciation and Amortization	14,673	13,474
Operating Taxes	8,121	8,157
Total Operating Expenses	164,771	175,918
Operating Margins Before Interest Expense	10,689	7,202
Interest Expense	8,030	5,733
Operating Margins After Interest Expense	2,659	1,469
Nonoperating Margins	547	109
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Allocations	376	452
Net Margins	\$ 3,582	\$ 2,030

See accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' EQUITY
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
(In Thousands)**

	Patronage Capital	Other Equities	Total Members' Equity
Balance, December 31, 2022	\$ 138,752	\$ 4,052	\$ 142,804
Net Margins	2,030	-	2,030
Patronage Capital Retirements	(2,044)	1,224	(820)
Balance, December 31, 2023	138,738	5,276	144,014
Net Margins	3,582	-	3,582
Other	-	19	19
Balance, December 31, 2024	\$ 142,320	\$ 5,295	\$ 147,615

See accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31
(In Thousands)

	2024	2023
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Net Margins	\$ 3,582	\$ 2,030
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Margins to Net Cash		
Provided by Operating Activities		
Depreciation and Amortization	17,457	16,272
Patronage Capital from Associated Organizations	(376)	(452)
Accumulated Provision for Postretirement Benefits	(45)	51
Postretirement Benefit Contributions	(240)	(276)
Change in Deferred Credits	53	(8,010)
Change in Deferred Debits	(7,278)	(6,988)
Change In		
Accounts Receivable	7,898	(2,428)
Materials and Supplies	(3,249)	(6,535)
Other Current Assets	(157)	4
Accounts Payable	(7,427)	7,057
Member Deposits	17	210
Other Current Liabilities	(765)	1,352
	9,470	13,449
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Extension and Replacement of Plant	(86,766)	(51,016)
Return of Equity from Associated Organizations	742	792
Proceeds from Grants	15,036	1,692
	(70,988)	(48,532)
Balance - Carried Forward	\$ (61,518)	\$ (35,083)

See accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31
(In Thousands)

	2024	2023
Balance - Brought Forward	\$ (61,518)	\$ (35,083)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Advances of Long-Term Debt	70,000	24,500
Principal Payments of Long-Term Debt	(8,565)	(6,207)
Lines-of-Credit	(454)	17,167
Retirement of Patronage Capital	-	(820)
Other Equities	19	-
	\$ 61,000	\$ 34,640
Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(518)	(443)
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning	1,501	1,944
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Ending	\$ 983	\$ 1,501
Supplemental Disclosure of Noncash Financing and Investing Activities		
Establishment of Lease Liability and Right-of-Use Asset	\$ 851	-

See accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(1) Nature of Operations

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary (the Corporation) provides electric and internet services to residential, businesses, governmental, and industrial customers in certain areas within the State of New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) is a member-owned, not-for-profit corporation organized to provide electric service to its members. NHEC operates as a cooperative whereby all monies in excess of the cost of providing electric service are capital, at the moment of receipt, and are credited to each member's capital account. NHEC is currently subject to limited regulation by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC). NHEC currently serves active service locations throughout 118 communities in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Broadband, LLC

New Hampshire Broadband, LLC (NHB), a wholly owned subsidiary of NHEC, offers retail broadband services to members and was organized for the purpose of providing fiber-to-the-home broadband access to the full spectrum of online resources, tools, and applications.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Accounting policies of the Corporation reflect practices appropriate to the electric utility industry, retail broadband industry, and generally accepted accounting principles of the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). The records of the Corporation are maintained in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts prescribed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The following describes the more significant of those policies.

Basis of Accounting

The Corporation's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) provides authoritative guidance regarding U.S. GAAP through the *Accounting Standards Codification (ASC)* and related Accounting Standards Updates (ASUs).

Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts and results of operations of NHEC and its wholly-owned subsidiary, NHB. All significant intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Regulated Operations

NHEC, in its rate-making capacity, has the ability to account for certain revenue and expense deferrals in accordance with *ASC 980*.

In accordance with New Hampshire statute, NHEC members have the option to vote to reduce the level of NHPUC regulation that affects the Corporation. The NHPUC retains limited regulatory jurisdiction for some aspects of NHEC's operations that pertain to the restructuring of the electric industry. All regulatory assets and liabilities associated with energy efficiency, energy assistance, and some aspects of restructuring continue to be regulated by the NHPUC. The board of directors, rather than the NHPUC, regulates NHEC's rates for distribution, transmission, and default energy supply.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Long-Lived Assets

The Corporation evaluates long-lived assets for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of such assets may not be recoverable. The determination of whether an impairment has occurred is based on either a specific regulatory disallowance or an estimate of undiscounted future cash flows attributable to the assets, as compared with the carrying value of the assets. If an impairment has occurred, the amount of the impairment recognized is determined by estimating the fair value of the assets and recording a provision for loss if the carrying value is greater than the fair value. For assets identified as held for sale, the carrying value is compared to the estimated fair value less the cost to sell in order to determine if an impairment provision is required. Until the assets are disposed of, their estimated fair value is reevaluated when circumstances or events change.

U.S. GAAP requires the present value of the ultimate cost for an asset's future retirement be recorded in the period in which the liability is incurred. The cost should be capitalized as part of the related long-lived asset and depreciated over the asset's useful life. The Corporation has no legal retirement obligations related to its distribution facilities; therefore, a liability for the removal of these assets will not be recorded. Management believes the actual cost of removal, even though not a legal obligation, will be recovered through rates over the life of the distribution assets.

Utility Plant

Construction work in progress (CWIP) consists of construction and retirement costs associated with the Corporation's distribution system. CWIP charges principally include labor and applicable overheads, major materials, and contractor costs.

CWIP is unitized to electric plant in service at cost less related contributions in aid of construction. In general, utility plant is capitalized at the time it becomes part of an operating unit and has been energized. However, certain items of plant referred to as special equipment items (meters, oil circuit reclosers, etc.) are capitalized at the time of purchase along with related estimated cost of installation.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Non-Utility Plant

Non-utility plant is capitalized at cost less related contributions in aid of construction. In general, non-utility plant is capitalized at the time it becomes part of an operating unit and is ready to provide related services to members and customers.

Leases

The Corporation determines if an arrangement is a lease at inception. Operating leases are included as a component of utility plant as right-of-use (ROU) assets, other current liabilities, and long-term liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets.

ROU assets represent the Corporation's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term, and lease liabilities represent the Corporation's obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease. Operating lease ROU assets and liabilities are recognized at the commencement date based on the present value of lease payments over the lease term. As most of the Corporation's leases do not provide an implicit rate, the Corporation uses a risk-free rate based on the information available at the commencement date in determining the present value of lease payments. The operating lease ROU asset also includes any lease payments made and excludes lease incentives. The lease terms may include options to extend or terminate the lease when it is reasonably certain that the Corporation will exercise that option. Lease expense for lease payments is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The Corporation's lease agreements do not contain any material residual value guarantees or material restrictive covenants.

Depreciation and Maintenance

Depreciation of distribution plant is provided using composite rates. When property subject to depreciation is retired or otherwise disposed of in the normal course of business, its capitalized cost and its cost of removal less salvage are charged to the accumulated provision for depreciation.

Provision has been made for depreciation of distribution plant at a weighted average straight-line rate of 4.54 percent per annum, except automated metering equipment which is depreciated at 6.67 percent per annum.

Depreciation of general plant is provided on a straight-line and composite basis over the estimated useful lives of the various assets. The rates range from 2.5 percent to 33.0 percent per annum.

The costs of maintenance, repairs, and replacements of minor items of property are charged to maintenance expense accounts.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents include time deposits, certificates of deposit, and all highly liquid debt instruments with original maturities of three months or less.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Receivables and Allowance for Credit Losses

Accounts receivable includes billed receivables and accrued utility revenue and are stated at the amount management expects to collect. Once an electric consumer or broadband customer's service is shut off and the account is deemed uncollectible, the Corporation writes off the associated accounts receivable. An allowance for credit losses is based on experience and other circumstances which may affect the ability of members to meet their obligations. Accounts considered uncollectible are charged against the allowance. Delinquent receivables are written off based on individual credit evaluations and specific circumstances of the members. Recoveries of accounts receivable previously written off are recorded against the allowance when received.

Credit evaluations are performed on most potential electric consumers before accepting them for service. Depending upon the results of the credit evaluation, a deposit may be required. If an electric consumer does not pay its bill based on the terms of the service agreement, the Corporation may require an additional deposit as a condition of continued service. Expected credit losses are determined on the basis of how long a receivable has been outstanding, current economic conditions and historical loss information.

The allowance for credit loss activity was as follows for the years ended December 31:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
Beginning Balance	\$ 393	\$ 401
Credit Loss Accruals	74	93
Write-Offs, Net of Recoveries	(151)	(101)
	\$ 316	\$ 393

Materials and Supplies

Materials and supplies are generally used for construction and for operation and maintenance work and are not for resale. Cost is determined by the moving average method of inventory valuation. Materials and supplies are charged to construction or operations at moving average cost when used.

Patronage Capital and Margins

The Corporation is organized and operates under the cooperative form of organization. As such, patronage capital or margins are allocated to patrons on the basis of individual consumption of electric energy.

Under provisions of the long-term debt agreements, until the total equities and margins equal or exceed 20 percent of the total assets of the Corporation, the return to patrons of capital contributed by them is limited. The Corporation's equities were 35.35 percent and 39.96 percent of total assets as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Revenue Recognition

Sales of Electricity

Electric revenue is generated from contracts (service agreements) with the Corporation's retail electric customers. This revenue, generated from the integrated service to deliver electricity when and if called upon by the customer, is recognized as a single performance obligation satisfied over time and as electricity is delivered to the customer during the month. Unbilled distribution revenue related to retail sales is accrued at the end of each fiscal period and is included as a component of accounts receivable on the consolidated balance sheets.

Electric revenue is billed monthly to consumers on a cycle basis. The Corporation's electric rates include provisions to permit the board of directors to adjust billings for fluctuations in fuel costs, purchased power costs, and certain other costs. Any underrecovery of wholesale power cost, regional access fees or transmission costs are reflected as a component of deferred debits on the consolidated balance sheets. Conversely, an overrecovery of wholesale power cost, regional access fees or transmission costs are reflected as a component of deferred credits on the consolidated balance sheets. Overrecovery and underrecovery of wholesale power cost, regional access fees, or transmission costs represents amounts due to/from members for power costs which have yet to be billed, or will be billed in the future, as a component of the corresponding power or regional access rates. Overrecovery and underrecovery components to be billed in the future will be applied to "Co-op Power" or "Regional Access Charge" rates based on the source nature of the costs incurred.

Pole Attachments and Joint Facilities

The Corporation has contractual agreements with customers for the attachment of other utility services to existing utility plant which it owns. Revenue is recognized monthly over the term of the agreements. Customers are billed in accordance with the respective contracts; either annually in arrears or semi-annual in advance depending on the type of utility service attached to the poles. Payment is due within 30 days of the bill date.

Broadband

Broadband service revenue is recognized when the applicable service is provided, and control is transferred. During 2023, broadband services began being billed on the first day of the customer's cycle in advance and are recognized during the month as the service is provided in alignment with the customer's receipt of the service. Accordingly, there is no unbilled retail broadband revenue as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Revenue Recognition (Continued)

Revenue is comprised of the following for the years ended December 31:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
Electric Revenue	\$ 166,738	\$ 176,113
Broadband Revenue	3,277	1,211
Pole Attachment and Joint Facility Revenue	3,295	3,621
Other Electric Fees and Charges	1,448	1,500
Other Broadband Revenue	702	675
	\$ 175,460	\$ 183,120

Cost of Purchased Power

NHEC's "Co-op Power" energy service rates reflect estimates of the cost of purchased power, including contract power costs, costs for renewable energy certificates, Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-NE) administered wholesale market costs for energy, capacity costs, ancillary services, and related administrative costs. Retail members who purchase their energy from NHEC are billed through a seasonally adjusted "Co-op Power" rate that is based on projected data for the cost of wholesale power. NHEC's "Regional Access Charge" rates include estimates of ISO-NE regional transmission related costs, local transmission services, and distribution interconnection service costs. These rates also reflect estimates of costs associated with services and administration necessary for members to access energy services from NHEC or competitive suppliers. To the extent that actual costs incurred for a rate period differ from estimates used in setting rates for the period, the differences are deferred and refunded or charged to members in subsequent periods through the periodic rate adjustments as approved by NHEC's board of directors in accordance with New Hampshire statutes.

The Corporation has evaluated its wholesale power contracts and determined them to be capacity contracts that meet the criteria of *ASC 815-10-15-45-51*, qualifying them for the normal purchase and normal sales scope exception from the requirements of derivative accounting and reporting. For these contracts, the Corporation has elected to apply the normal purchase and normal sales scope exception. As such, the cost of power is expensed as consumed.

Investments in Associated Organizations

Investments in associated organizations primarily include investments in other cooperative organizations. Investments in other cooperative organizations represent capital investments made primarily to obtain an economical source of supply, financing, product, or service. Investments in other cooperative organizations are carried at cost plus allocated equities in accordance with *ASC 905-325-30*.

Capital credit allocations from associated organizations are included on the consolidated statement of operations as other capital credits and patronage capital allocations.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Investments in Associated Organizations (Continued)

The Corporation's investments in associated organizations include debt securities invested at the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC) as capital term certificates.

NHEC classifies all of its debt securities as held-to-maturity (HTM). HTM debt securities are those debt securities in which the Corporation has the ability and intent to hold the security until maturity. HTM debt securities are recorded at cost, as there are no associated premiums and discounts to amortize. A decline in the market value of any HTM security below cost that is deemed to be other than temporary, results in an impairment to reduce the carrying amount to fair value. To determine whether impairment is other than temporary, NHEC considers all available information relevant to the collectibility of the security, including past events, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts when developing estimates of cash flows expected to be collected. Evidence considered in this assessment includes the reasons for impairment, the severity and duration of the impairment, changes in value subsequent to year-end, forecasted performances of the investee and the general market conditions in the geographical area or industry in which the investee operates.

The \$3,317,000 and \$3,414,000 carrying value of the debt securities investments, included in investments in associated organizations, approximated fair value with interest rates ranging from zero percent to five percent at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The debt securities investments have maturity dates ranging from November 1, 2028 through October 1, 2080. Based on ongoing credit evaluations of these investments, NHEC does not expect payment defaults or delinquencies and has not recorded an allowance for credit losses for these securities as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Deferred Debits

NHEC establishes deferred debits for costs associated with the under-recovery of certain tariff rates that are deferred and collected from members through periodic rate adjustments. Deferred debits are regulatory in nature and are approved by either the board of directors or the NHPUC. Deferred debits also include amounts related to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Retirement Security Program (RS Plan) that are amortized over a defined period as well as amounts related to postretirement benefits and renewable energy certificates.

Other Regulated Rates

NHEC's tariff rates include an Energy Efficiency System Benefit Charge (EE SBC) and an Energy Assistance Program System Benefit Charge (EAP SBC) at rates set by the NHPUC for all State of New Hampshire jurisdictional utilities. The EE SBC recovers the costs of those NHEC energy efficiency program services that are subject to NHPUC approval. The funds collected through NHEC's EAP SBC are reconciled to the benefits provided to NHEC's income qualified members and any under- or over- recovery of benefits paid to members is received from or submitted to, respectively, the State of New Hampshire which administers the pooled funds of all jurisdictional utilities.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Amounts Collected on Behalf of Third Parties

Certain portions of the Corporation's sales are subject to taxes that must be remitted to a third party. When required, the Corporation collects these taxes from customers and remits it to applicable jurisdictions. The Corporation's accounting policy is to exclude the tax collected and remitted from revenues and cost of sales.

Income Taxes

NHEC is exempt from federal and state income taxes under Section 501(c)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) which provides, in part, that NHEC derive at least 85 percent of its annual gross income from members to retain the exemption. NHEC expects to meet the requirement for the tax year ended December 31, 2024. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been made in the consolidated financial statements. Currently, the Corporation's federal information returns for calendar year 2021 and after are subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service.

NHB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NHEC and treated as a disregarded entity for tax purposes and the results of its operations are included in NHEC's information return.

Subsequent Events

In preparing these consolidated financial statements, the Corporation has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through March 25, 2025, the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued.

(3) Accounts Receivable, Contract Assets, and Contract Liabilities

Billed receivables, contract assets and contract liabilities are as follows as of December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	(In Thousands)		
	2024	2023	2023
	End of Year	End of Year	Beginning of Year
Accounts Receivable, Net			
Billed Receivables - Electric	\$ 16,800	\$ 25,973	\$ 23,286
Accrued Utility Revenue - Electric	5,452	4,494	4,771
Billed Receivables - Broadband	418	101	83
	<u>\$ 22,670</u>	<u>\$ 30,568</u>	<u>\$ 28,140</u>
Contract Assets			
Deferred Debits			
Underrecovery of Wholesale Power Cost	\$ -	\$ 1,195	\$ 6,568
Braintree Electric Light	3,021	3,615	4,183
BEA Grant Performance Bond	485	727	970
Underrecovery of Regional Access Fees	1,991	-	-
	<u>\$ 5,497</u>	<u>\$ 5,537</u>	<u>\$ 11,721</u>
Contract Liabilities			
Overrecovery of Energy Efficiency	\$ 3,811	\$ 3,177	\$ 2,560
Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)	1,603	628	1,001
Social and Environmental Responsibilities	204	63	504
Overrecovery of Wholesale Power Cost	357	-	-
Overrecovery of Regional Access Fees	-	376	650
	<u>\$ 5,975</u>	<u>\$ 4,244</u>	<u>\$ 4,715</u>

(4) Utility Plant

Listed below are the major classes of the electric utility plant as of December 31:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
Distribution Plant	\$ 411,884	\$ 400,583
Generation and Transmission Plant	5,011	5,011
Right-of-Use Assets - Operating Lease	4,894	4,237
General Plant	63,504	49,859
Electric Plant in Service	485,293	459,690
Construction Work in Progress	55,212	20,389
	\$ 540,505	\$ 480,079

(5) Investments in Associated Organizations

Investments in associated organizations consisted of the following as of December 31:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation		
Capital Term Certificates	\$ 3,317	\$ 3,414
Capital Credits	6,367	6,685
Other		
Capital Credits	684	635
	\$ 10,368	\$ 10,734

(6) Deferred Debits

Deferred debits are comprised of the following as of December 31:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
Braintree Electric Light	\$ 3,021	\$ 3,615
BEA Grant Performance Bond	485	727
Underrecovery of Wholesale Power Cost	-	1,195
Underrecovery of Regional Access Fees	1,991	-
Major Storm Restoration	7,765	1,524
Other	1,230	153
	\$ 14,492	\$ 7,214

During 2022, the New Hampshire Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) Agency entered into an agreement with NHEC for the planning, construction, and installation of all necessary broadband infrastructure and equipment for providing access to broadband for unserved properties in the state of New Hampshire funded by the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund of the US Department of the Treasury in the amount of \$50,000,000. The agreement was approved by the Governor and Executive Council of New Hampshire. The Corporation received \$15,000,000 in funding for the year ended December 31, 2024. In accordance with practices appropriate to the utility industry, the Corporation applied the funds as contribution in aid of construction to related utility and non-utility plant. As of December 31, 2024, the Corporation had received cumulative funding totaling \$30,000,000.

(7) Deferred Credits

Deferred credits are comprised of the following as of December 31:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
Regulatory Liability - Postretirement Benefits	\$ 301	\$ 24
Overrecovery of Tariff Rates	5,975	4,244
Regulatory Liability - Depreciation Study	10,602	12,369
	\$ 16,878	\$ 16,637

(7) Deferred Credits (Continued)

In 2018, NHEC revised its depreciation rates for certain utility plant based on the results of a depreciation rate study conducted. The revised depreciation rates reflect longer estimated useful lives and greater net salvage values. As a result of this depreciation rate study, the NHEC reduced accumulated depreciation and amortization and recognized a regulatory liability. The liability is being recognized as depreciation expense annually over a period of twelve years.

NHEC establishes deferred credits for costs associated with the over-recovery of certain tariff rates that are deferred and refunded to members through periodic rate adjustments. Deferred credits are regulatory in nature and are approved by either the board of directors or the NHPUC. Deferred credits also include amounts related to postretirement benefits and regulatory liabilities that are amortized over a defined period established at the inception of the credit.

(8) Patronage Capital

Patronage capital is comprised of the following as of December 31:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
Assignable	\$ (3,394)	\$ (2,519)
Assigned	155,759	151,302
	152,365	148,783
Cumulative Retirements	(10,045)	(10,045)
	\$ 142,320	\$ 138,738

(9) Debt

Long-Term Debt

Long-term debt consists of mortgage notes payable to the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC) and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac). The notes are secured by a mortgage agreement among the Corporation, NRUCFC and Farmer Mac. Substantially, all the assets of the Corporation are pledged as security for long-term debt of the Corporation. The notes generally have maturity periods ranging from 5 years to 35 years and are payable on a monthly and quarterly installment basis. The notes contain certain affirmative and negative covenants, including maintenance of certain financial ratios as defined in the agreement. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Corporation was in compliance with the covenants.

Holder of Note	Weighted Average Interest Rate as of December 31, 2024	(In Thousands)	
		2024	2023
NRUCFC - Electric	4.96%	\$ 121,028	100,913
NRUCFC - Broadband	6.04%	61,134	18,827
NRUCFC - Farmer Mac	4.04%	10,644	11,631
		192,806	131,371
Maturities Due Within One Year		(9,692)	(6,709)
		\$ 183,114	\$ 124,662

Principal maturities of long-term debt are as follows:

(In Thousands)	
Year	Amount
2025	\$ 9,692
2026	10,149
2027	10,464
2028	10,400
2029	7,183
Thereafter	144,918
	\$ 192,806

(9) Debt (Continued)

Long-Term Debt (Continued)

The Corporation has \$74,500,000 in unadvanced loan funds on commitment from NRUCFC as of December 31, 2024. Availability of the funds is contingent on the Corporation's compliance with one or more preconditions set forth in the mortgage agreements.

Cash payments of interest totaled approximately \$7,471,000 and \$5,084,000 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Lines-of-Credit

The Corporation has a \$20,000,000 unsecured perpetual revolving line-of-credit with NRUCFC with an outstanding balance of \$14,189,000 and \$17,064,000 at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The line-of-credit with NRUCFC carries a variable rate of 6.50 percent as of December 31, 2024.

The Corporation has a \$20,000,000 unsecured revolving line-of-credit with NRUCFC with an outstanding balance of \$5,487,000 and \$4,851,000 at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The line-of-credit with NRUCFC carries a variable rate of 6.50 percent as of December 31, 2024.

The Corporation has an unsecured revolving line-of-credit with NRUCFC with an outstanding balance of \$5,173,000 and \$3,137,000 at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The facility had an available amount of \$20,000,000 for the year ended December 31, 2023, and was modified during 2024 to carry an available amount of \$5,500,000. The line-of-credit with NRUCFC carries a variable rate of 6.50 percent as of December 31, 2024. The purpose is to provide interim financing for the construction of the broadband project.

The Corporation has a \$15,000,000 unsecured revolving line-of-credit with NRUCFC with an outstanding balance of \$-0- and \$251,000 at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The line-of-credit with NRUCFC carries a variable rate of 6.50 percent as of December 31, 2024. The purpose is to provide interim financing for power supply.

During 2024, the Corporation also established a \$30,000,000 unsecured revolving line-of-credit with NRUCFC with no outstanding balance as of December 31, 2024. The line-of-credit with NRUCFC carries a variable rate of 6.50 percent as of December 31, 2024. The purpose is to provide interim financing for the construction of the broadband project.

Letters-of-Credit

Various NHEC's power supply contract counterparties rely on NHEC's for primary performance credit support. NHEC has executed agreements with NRUCFC for the issuance of letters-of-credit specifically for power supply agreements should primary or back-up collateral be demanded to meet the performance requirements for some power supply and other agreements. The total authority under these facilities is \$30,000,000. The letters-of-credit outstanding under these facilities totaled \$4,000,000 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023. Annual fee expenses for the master facility and issuance of these letters approximated \$76,000 and \$77,000 for December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively and are recovered through the members' rates.

(9) Debt (Continued)

Letters-of-Credit (Continued)

NHB is required to obtain and maintain a letter of credit equivalent to one year of support for each year of participation in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). The Corporation has executed agreements with NRUCFC for the issuance of letters-of-credit specifically for RDOF support as required by Universal Service Administrative Company in the amount of \$1,959,000 and \$1,306,000 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Annual fee expenses for the master facility and issuance of these letters approximated \$11,000 and \$8,000 for December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

In addition, NHEC is required to provide a letter-of-credit to Eversource (formerly known as Public Service of New Hampshire). This requirement is in accordance with the third party attachment agreement with Eversource in order for NHB to attach to Eversource poles within Eversource's service territory. The amount of the letter-of-credit is based on the number of poles that are expected to be utilized under the agreement. The Corporation has executed agreements with NRUCFC for the issuance of letters-of-credit for this purpose in the amount of \$450,000 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023. Annual fee expenses for the master facility and issuance of these letters approximated \$4,000 and \$3,000 for December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Allowance for Funds Under Construction

The allowance for funds used during construction represents the cost of borrowed funds used for construction of utility plant. The allowance is capitalized as a component of the cost of utility plant. The Corporation capitalized \$1,640,000 and \$616,000 of interest as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

(10) Leases

The Corporation has entered into various lease obligations for towers under direct operating leases. The leased towers have been recorded as right-of-use assets and are amortized on a straight-line basis of 2-30 years.

The outstanding obligations for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 totaled \$4,894,000 and \$4,396,000, respectively. The discount rate utilized was a risk-free rate of 4.18 percent with maturity dates extending to December 2054. The weighted average remaining lease term for the Corporation's operating leases was 16.24 and 11.49 years as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The charge to rental expense under these leases totaled \$372,000 and \$579,000 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

(10) Leases (Continued)

The following is a schedule of future minimum payments required under the leases together with the present value as of December 31, 2024:

<u>Year Ending</u>	<u>(In Thousands)</u> <u>Amount</u>
2025	\$ 587
2026	598
2027	598
2028	615
2029	476
Thereafter	<u>3,454</u>
Total Minimum Lease Payments	6,328
Less Amount Representing Interest	<u>(1,434)</u>
Present Value of Minimum Lease Payments	<u><u>\$ 4,894</u></u>

(11) Retiree Benefits

Pension Plan (Defined Benefit)

Pension benefits for substantially all employees of the Corporation are provided through participation in the NRECA RS Plan, a defined benefit plan qualified under Section 401 and tax-exempt under 501(a) of the IRC. The plan sponsor's employer identification number is 53-0116145 and the plan number is 333.

A unique characteristic of a multiemployer plan compared to a single employer plan is that all plan assets are available to pay benefits of any plan participant. Separate asset accounts are not maintained for participating employers. This means that assets contributed by one employer may be used to provide benefits to employees of other participating employers.

The Corporation's annual contributions to the program represented less than 5 percent of total contributions made to the plan by all participating employers and are equal to the amounts recorded for pension cost. Contributions were \$3,446,000 and \$3,167,000 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

In the RS Plan, a "zone status" determination is not required, and therefore not determined, under the Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006. In addition, the accumulated benefit obligations and plan assets are not determined or allocated separately by individual employer. In total, the RS Plan was between 65 percent and 80 percent funded at January 1, 2024 and 2023 based on the PPA funding target and PPA actuarial value of assets on those dates.

Because the provisions of the PPA do not apply to the RS Plan, funding improvement plans and surcharges are not applicable. Future contribution requirements are determined each year as part of the actuarial valuation of the plan and may change as a result of plan experience.

(11) Retiree Benefits (Continued)

Pension Plan (Defined Contribution Plan)

The Corporation also provides additional employee benefits to substantially all employees through a sponsored defined contribution Savings Plan (401-k). In this defined contribution plan, the Corporation's contributory portion of costs of this plan totaled \$924,000 and \$870,000 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Postretirement Healthcare Benefits

The Corporation provides healthcare benefits and life insurance to qualified retirees. The Corporation follows U.S. GAAP for postretirement benefits other than pensions. This standard requires cooperatives to recognize the estimated future cost of providing healthcare and any other postretirement benefits on an accrual basis.

The status of the Corporation's postretirement healthcare plan as of December 31 is detailed as follows:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
Accumulated Benefit Obligation - Beginning of Year	\$ (2,015)	\$ (2,155)
Service Cost	(65)	(62)
Interest Cost	(95)	(101)
Changes in Actuarial Assumptions	266	26
Benefits Paid	240	276
Accumulated Benefit Obligation - End of Year	(1,669)	(2,016)
Fair Value of Plan Assets - Beginning of Year	2,242	2,054
Actual Return on Plan Assets	126	188
Employer Contribution	(240)	(276)
Actual Distributions	240	276
Fair Value of Plan Assets - End of Year	2,368	2,242
Funded Status - End of Year	\$ 699	\$ 226

(11) Retiree Benefits (Continued)

Postretirement Healthcare Benefits (Continued)

Amounts recognized on the consolidated balance sheets consisted of the following as of December 31:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
Component of Long-Term Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -
Component of Other Property and Investments	699	226
	\$ 699	\$ 226

Net postretirement benefit cost consisted of the following for the years ended December 31:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
Net Postretirement Benefit Cost		
Service Cost	\$ (65)	\$ (62)
Interest Cost	(95)	(101)
Amortization of Actuarial Assumptions	115	214
	\$ (45)	\$ 51

Amounts recognized as a component of regulatory assets and liabilities:

	(In Thousands)	
	2024	2023
Deferred Actuarial Components - Beginning of Year	\$ 24	\$ (114)
Amortization of Prior Service Cost	(4)	(4)
Actuarial Gain (Loss)	281	142
Deferred Actuarial Components - End of Year	\$ 301	\$ 24

The Corporation's accumulated postretirement benefit obligation and net periodic postretirement benefit cost are calculated using various actuarial assumptions and methodologies. The assumptions include discount rates, medical trend rates, mortality rates, and other factors. Actuarial assumptions are reviewed on an annual basis.

The components of net periodic postretirement benefit cost, other than the service cost component, are included in the line item nonoperating margins for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

(11) Retiree Benefits (Continued)

Postretirement Healthcare Benefits (Continued)

The Corporation has elected to recognize actuarial gains and losses and other changes in obligation as a component of regulatory assets and liabilities. As a result, the Corporation does not recognize other comprehensive income related to actuarial changes in assumptions.

The Corporation does not anticipate contributing funds to the plan during the year ended December 31, 2025, other than the current year amount paid for retirees.

The following table shows key assumptions used for the measurement of obligations for the plan as of December 31:

<u>Description</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Discount Rate on Net Postretirement Benefit Cost	5.35%	5.50%
Discount Rate on Net Postretirement Benefit Obligation	6.05%	5.35%
Expected Return on Plan Assets	4.86%	4.94%
Medical Trend Rate		
Initial	9.98%	9.98%
Ultimate	4.75%	5.00%
Fiscal Year Reached	2031+	2028+

The following benefits are expected to be paid:

(In Thousands)		
<u>Year</u>		<u>Amount</u>
2025	\$	231
2026		199
2027		207
2028		201
2029		192
2030-2034		680

(11) Retiree Benefits (Continued)

Postretirement Healthcare Benefits (Continued)

The following table sets forth the weighted-average asset allocations of the Corporation's postretirement healthcare benefits at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Bonds</u>	<u>Equities</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024	4.00%	57.00%	39.00%	100.00%
2023	5.00%	58.00%	37.00%	100.00%

The Corporation employs a total-return investment approach whereby a mix of equities and fixed income investments is used to maximize the long-term return of plan assets for a prudent level of risk. The current asset allocation adheres to the Corporation's overall investment strategy for plan assets. Plan assets are measured at fair value (See Note 14).

(12) Commitments and Contingencies

Power Contracts

NHEC procures wholesale energy, capacity, ancillary services, and renewable energy certificates (together, "bundled energy service") from a variety of resources. These resources are available in New England's deregulated competitive wholesale capacity, energy, ancillary services, and renewable attributes markets. They are purchased to meet the needs of NHEC members who elect, or default to, NHEC's "Co-op Power" bundled energy service option rather than choosing to purchase energy service from retail competitive suppliers or community power aggregations.

NHEC's wholesale procurement arrangements include bilateral purchase agreements of various term lengths, with various suppliers, for various products or combinations of products. Current resource portfolio contract terms are from one month up to 20 years. The longest remaining contract term ends in 2038. These products may include daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal, or annual, on-peak and off-peak fixed volume or load following energy. Bilateral contract pricing may be fixed or indexed and may include optionality. NHEC may also meet a portion of its wholesale requirements through contract arrangements tied to the output of specific generating plants or demand resources and may engage in ownership of such resources. NHEC uses competitive bidding and direct negotiation to establish terms, conditions, and pricing of its bilateral wholesale procurements. NHEC may participate with other entities in joint or group procurement.

To the extent NHEC's wholesale requirements are not fully met through bilateral contract arrangements or ownership, they are met through NHEC's participation in the New England Power Pool markets administered by ISO-NE, such as the day-ahead and real-time energy markets and the forward capacity market that imposes an obligation on load serving entities to provide or make payments for capacity.

(12) Commitments and Contingencies (Continued)

Power Contracts (Continued)

Should a significant number of NHEC's members choose to purchase competitively supplied power or community power aggregations instead of purchasing Co-op Power from the Corporation, NHEC would still have the obligation to purchase the power contracted for bilaterally. If such contracted volumes exceed NHEC's needs, NHEC would sell any excess contracted power into the marketplace. However, management does not anticipate the likelihood of this happening and if so, such an event is not expected to be long in duration, as the volume of members who do not purchase Co-op Power from the Corporation has been relatively limited and consistent, and NHEC manages its bilateral procurements taking into account members' use of competitive suppliers and community power aggregations as it changes over time.

NHEC is subject to New Hampshire Statute RSA Chapter 362 F, an "Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard" (RPS). The law requires providers of electricity, including utilities and competitive providers, to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) equal to a specified percentage of their energy from four classes of state qualified resources. By statute, some of the percentages increase over time. RSA Chapter 362F establishes guidelines for resource qualification for the creation of RECs allowing for the trading of these renewable attributes to meet annual RPS obligations by mid-June of the following year. Finally, the law establishes standards and prices for alternative compliance payments (ACP) made by electricity providers in lieu of REC acquisition in certain circumstances. Final REC transactions for 2024 are not required to be completed until June 15, 2025, as a function of relevant RPS rules, but the Corporation anticipates meeting most of its 2024 obligations through unit contracts and REC purchases.

The approximately 9 percent of 2024 RPS obligations that may not be met by REC purchases include Thermal RECs (6 percent) and Class III Biomass and Landfill Gas RECs (3 percent). Thermal RECs are obtained from renewable energy resources that do not produce electricity but produce useful thermal energy. The New Hampshire Department of Energy (NHDOE) conducted an investigation beginning in January 2025 to consider if the Class III REC obligation should be reduced due to unavailability of those RECs. The NHDOE determined by order dated March 5, 2025 that the 2023 Class III obligation should be set at 1 percent, reduced from the 8 percent originally established in the RPS legislation. NHEC expects to make ACP to meet its obligations not met by REC purchases.

To deliver energy from the New England regional wholesale markets to NHEC's retail distribution network, it settles Regional Network transmission services from multiple providers through ISO-NE, and Local Network transmission service is provided by Eversource Energy (formerly Northeast Utilities), Vermont Electric Power Company, Green Mountain Power, and National Grid. Interconnection and delivery service is provided by Eversource Energy pursuant to FERC regulated contracts and tariffs.

Fiber Network Assets

During 2020, the New Hampshire Governor's Office of Strategic Initiative issued Broadband Expansion Program Grants (Grants) funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. NHEC was awarded two Grants to provide high-speed broadband internet service to certain unserved properties and received grant proceeds of \$3,407,000 and \$3,283,000 during 2020. The Corporation is subject to certain requirements, including establishing individual property connections to connect customers, for a period of five years after the completion of the projects. The total estimated cost of the Project is \$9,500,000, of which \$6,690,000 was received in Grants funds and the remaining costs to connect customers are expected to be funded by NHEC.

(12) Commitments and Contingencies (Continued)

Fiber Network Assets (Continued)

During 2022, the BEA Agency entered into an agreement with NHEC for the planning, construction, and installation of all necessary broadband infrastructure and equipment for providing access to broadband for unserved properties in the state of New Hampshire funded by the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund of the US Department of the Treasury in the amount of \$50,000,000. Accordingly, the corporation is responsible for the following:

1. A performance bond for the duration of the Grant Agreement and for 3 months following acceptance of the Project by the State (“Acceptance”).
2. Broadband access to Unserved Properties in New Hampshire as identified by NHEC in their response to RFP proposal dated July 29, 2022.
3. Designed to deliver upon completion, service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical download and upload speeds of 100 Mbps.
4. Must be completed, including all financial reporting closeout documents as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2026.
5. Ongoing operations and maintenance of the system will be the sole responsibility of the NHEC.
6. Low-cost option offered at speeds that are sufficient for a household with multiple users to simultaneously telework and engage in remote learning. Any future, low-cost option mandated by the federal government would negate this requirement. Effective June 1, 2024, funding under the Affordable Connectivity Program ended. Accordingly, the ACP discounts received by eligible households ended as of that date and those customers no longer receive discounts under the program.
7. Project and Expenditure Report (P&E): A quarterly report to provide information on the Project funded, obligations, expenditures, project status, outputs, performance indicators, address list modifications, and other information.

During 2023, NHEC received an approval of award through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) ReConnect funding program through a joint recipient award with the Town of Sandwich in the amount of \$1,650,000. Accordingly, the fiber network asset project must encompass approximately 100 miles of main line fiber passing approximately 1,100 broadband serviceable locations. The Corporation had satisfied the requirements of the award as of December 31, 2023 and the award funds were included as a component of accounts receivable as of December 31, 2023. The Corporation received full payment of the award amount in 2024.

Contingencies

NHEC is involved in various legal proceedings incidental to the conduct of its normal business operations. NHEC was involved in a contract dispute in the amount of \$11.9 million which is included in accounts receivable in the 2023 consolidated balance sheets. A settlement was reached during the year ended December 31, 2024 related to the disputed amount. The results of the settlement did not have a material adverse impact on the financial condition of the Corporation.

(13) Concentrations of Credit Risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Corporation to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents and consumer accounts receivable. The Corporation maintains its cash balances in financial institutions; cash balances throughout the year periodically exceed federally insured deposit limits of \$250,000. At December 31, 2024, the amount exceeding insured limits totaled \$1,278,000.

The Corporation serves consumers in the state of New Hampshire. The geographic concentration of the Corporation's consumers results in a concentration of credit risk with respect to the collection of accounts receivable. Credit evaluations are performed on most potential customers before accepting them for service. Depending upon the results of the credit evaluation, a deposit may be required.

(14) Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Fair Value Hierarchy

The Corporation records certain financial and nonfinancial assets using fair value measurements. The Corporation uses a hierarchical disclosure framework that prioritizes the level of market price observability to measure investments at fair value.

The guidance establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value as follows:

- Level 1. Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Corporation has the ability to access.
- Level 2. Valuations based on quoted market prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.
- Level 3. Valuations based on inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

The following valuation techniques are used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instrument:

- (1) *Market approach*. The market approach uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets or liabilities (including a business) and deriving fair value based on these inputs.
- (2) *Income approach*. The income approach uses valuation techniques to convert future amounts (for example, cash flows or earnings) to a single present amount (discounted). The measurement is based on the value indicated by current market expectations about those future amounts.
- (3) *Cost approach*. The cost approach is based on the amount that currently would be required to replace the service capacity of an asset (often referred to as current replacement cost). This approach assumes that the fair value would not exceed what it would cost a market participant to acquire or construct a substitute asset or comparable utility, adjusted for obsolescence.

(14) Fair Value of Financial Instruments (Continued)

Fair Value Hierarchy (Continued)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Level</u>	(In Thousands)	
		<u>December 31, 2024</u>	<u>December 31, 2023</u>
Postretirement Benefit Plan Assets	(1)		
Cash and Money Markets		\$ 95	\$ 106
Short-Term Bond Fund		1,233	1,195
Stock Index Fund		319	269
Value Fund		114	113
Small-Company Stock Fund		363	336
International Value Fund		244	223
		<u>\$ 2,368</u>	<u>\$ 2,242</u>