



Deregulation dead? The *Orlando Sentinel* reports that utility industry group **Edison Electric Institute** conducted a “postmortem” on the electric dereg movement during its annual conference in June. New EEI Chair **Wayne Brunetti**, CEO of **Xcel Energy**, is quoted saying, “It was a grand experiment.” **Or maybe it’s just sleeping...** The July expiration of legislated rate caps in **Maryland** has businesses hurrying to set up buying groups to maximize purchasing power for expected electricity price hikes. Incumbent utility **Potomac Electric Power Co.**, to serve only as a default provider, predicts an electric-bill increase of one-fourth for small business and residential customers who don’t switch; others see costs rising regardless. **Or maybe it’s wide awake...** the *New Hampshire Business Review* notes large manufacturing customer, New Hampshire Industries, Inc., is now buying power directly from **New England Power Pool’s** regional wholesale market. The NEPOOL market is administered by a regional, independent transmission operator. The local utility delivers power and remains obligated to serve as a default supplier. Businesses think power prices will drop.