

DW 08 098

Leighton, Adele

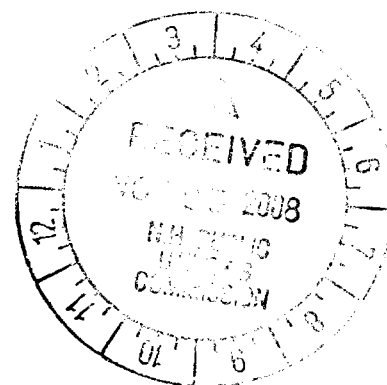
From: Smith, Kim on behalf of PUC
Sent: Monday, November 03, 2008 3:38 PM
To: Leighton, Adele; Howland, Debra; Noonan, Amanda; Naylor, Mark; Raymond, Margaret
Subject: FW: Aquarion Water Proposed Rate Increase

I have attached an internet e-mail from our PUC account regarding Docket No. DW 08-098, Aquarion Water Company.

--Kim

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary and Lenore Patton [mailto:gandlpatton@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, November 03, 2008 2:05 PM
To: PUC
Subject: Aquarion Water Proposed Rate Increase



Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing in support of the effort by five local Hampton residents to intervene in the rate hearing case before the Public Utilities Commission in which Aquarion Water has proposed a 26 percent increase in water rates.

Aquarion and its predecessors have consistently taken advantage of the citizens of Hampton. During the last water restriction period four or five years ago, homeowners were not permitted to water their lawns or even their shrubbery and flowers. At the same time, tourists staying at hotels in Hampton Beach had no water restrictions placed upon them. As a result of these restrictions, large swaths of my lawn died, and we had to personally replace the grass at a cost of over \$100. When we wrote the water company to complain about the unfairness of the policy and show the bills we had incurred, we were not even granted the courtesy of a response. Mind you, we were not asking for my money back; we simply wanted to demonstrate what the water company's unfair policy had cost us.

When some citizens in North Hampton recently proposed that the water company be taken over by the town, Aquarion's response was threatening and intimidating. Aquarion officials stated that any attempt to acquire the water company would cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in legal fees.

As recently as 2005, Aquarion requested and received an 18 percent increase. Renny Cushing stated in the Portsmouth Herald that "if the increase is granted, it would represent a 43 percent increase in a three-year period. At the same time, the inflation rate was less than 12 percent."

It's about time that Aquarion, instead of exploiting the citizens of Hampton, became a cooperating and contributing member of the local community. We thoroughly oppose the proposed rate increase.

Gary and Lenore Patton
78 Hayden Circle
Hampton, NH 03842

11/3/2008