

Leighton, Adele

From: Smith, Kim on behalf of PUC
Sent: Monday, November 03, 2008 12:45 PM
To: Leighton, Adele; Howland, Debra; Noonan, Amanda; Naylor, Mark; Raymond, Margaret
Subject: FW: Aquarion Water Company Request for 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: jjacobs241@comcast.net [mailto:jjacobs241@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2008 8:57 AM
To: PUC
Subject: Aquarion Water Company Request for Increase

To The Commission:

I would like to take issue with the rate increase proposed by Aquarion Water Co. of NH.

First, the overall average increase of 21.08% is approximately four times the cost-of-living increase approved for government retirees and Social Security recipients for next year and about double the sum of the these increases for the past three years. I believe most persons not working for a government entity do not get any cost-of-living increase.

Second, unless they are prohibited by regulation, Aquarion should be looking at long term capital costs and planning for them through some sort of reserve fund as other companies and organizations do. The impact is then distributed over many years in small increases rather than suddenly applied all at once in a large unaffordable increase.

It is unfortunate that long range planning was not done and doubly so that such a significant increase should be requested at a time when many persons discretionary income (i.e. for food, gasoline, etc.) is already being significantly reduced by increased mandatory costs such as rent, utilities, health insurance, etc. This is especially true of those of us on a fixed income.

In closing, I suggest that this proposal be restructured so as to mitigate the significant impact it will have on each of us and that Aquarion find a better way to plan for future capital expenditures.

John H. Jacobs
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