

Hudson
25 North Shore Rd.
Center Barnstead, NH 03225

July 8, 2008

NH Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Debra Howland
21 South Fruit Street
Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429
Fax: 603-271-3878

Re: Pennichuck proposed rate increase

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being directed to you in response to the proposed water increase by Pennichuck Water Company. I oppose such a high rate increase for many reasons. Locke Lake colony residents consist of families that live year round and families that use their homes as vacations homes. The increase they are requesting is unfair and unreasonable. It will severely affect those families that live here year round. Our economy is already in distress over high fuel cost which doesn't just affect heating, it also affects grocery prices and other essential needs. Higher water cost could make it difficult for those families already struggling to make ends meet and for those residents on fixed incomes who have no way to make up the difference in what those large increases will cost them. Pennichuck Water Company should not be allowed to tie its debt to higher water rates. Residents of Locke Lake Colony should not have to repay debt associated with a new facility when we did not have a say in how it was built. Could Pennichuck have used less expensive material or less expensive labor to have this facility built?

My husband and I bought our house in Locke Lake Colony in 2003 and were unaware of added costs resulting from a future sale of the water company. With the economy the way it is and the real estate market the way it is. It leaves us stuck between a rock and a hard place. We don't even have the option of selling our home to get away from this increase. Our home recently appraised at \$50k less than it did 2 years ago. Where will we get the money to pay for these rates? Also the proposed increase would fall in September, which is when home owners are preparing for the winter season. Families will be hit with fuel cost and water costs at the same time. How do you suppose families will be able to handle such an increase in budget?

Very concerned,

Jennifer Hudson

