

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DW 08-098

AQUARION WATER COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Permanent and Temporary Rate Proceeding

Petition to Intervene of
Robert Renny Cushing, Susan Kepner, Dennis Kepner and Michael Pierce

Now come Robert Renny Cushing, Susan Kepner, Dennis Kepner and Michael Pierce, by and through Robert Renny Cushing acting as agent for the Petitioners, who request to intervene in the above captioned rate proceeding and say to the Commission as follows:

1. Petitioners are residents and property taxpayers of Hampton, customers of Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire, and hold elected and appointed offices in local government as follows:

a) Robert Renny Cushing is a customer of Aquarion at his residence and property at 395 Winnacunnet Road in Hampton. For the past 15 years Mr. Cushing has served as the elected Moderator of the Winnacunnet School District;

b) Susan and Dennis Kepner are customers of Aquarion at their residence and property at 105 Mill Road in Hampton. Ms Kepner is the state representative from Rockingham District 15 and serves as a member of the Hampton Energy Committee. Mr. Kepner serves as a member of the Hampton Recycling Committee

c) Michael Pierce is a customer of Aquarion at his residence and property at 16 Hedman Avenue in Hampton. Mr. Pierce serves as an elected member of the Hampton Budget Committee.

2. Petitioners seek to represent themselves and the interests of fellow customers of Aquarion and Hampton homeowners and taxpayers, whose water bills and property taxes bill will be increased if the Commission approves Aquarion's request for a rate increase

approximating 26%. Petitioners have substantial rights, duties, privileges that will be affected by the proceeding.

3. Petitioners believe that the request by Aquarion to increase its residential rates by 26 % will impose an unfair economic burden upon its customers at this time of financial uncertainty, and unjustly impact family budgets.

4. Petitioners believe that the \$71,000 annual increase in costs to the Town of Hampton for water for firefighting, a 21 % increase, will be a burden to the town budget, and, in these difficult economic times, possibly force the town of Hampton to eliminate a firefighter position in order to pay the water bills. At a time when the Town of Hampton is working diligently to hold down expenses, this requested rate increase is not just or fair to the property taxpayers.

5. Petitioners note that in 2005 Aquarion was granted an 18 % rate increase. If the current request of Aquarion is approved by the Commission, this will result in water bills for Hampton customers being increased by 43% in a three year period. During the same period of time the inflation rate was less than 12%. An increase in water bills at a rate of over 3 ½ times the rate of inflation is an abuse of the water company's monopoly and such a rate increase is unjust and unreasonable.

6. Acquarion's owner, Macquarie Bank of Sydney, Australia, which bought the company from its previous owner, the UK-based Kelda Group in 2005, had after-tax profits for the year ending March 30, 2008 of 1.7 Billion Dollars (see Macquarie Financial Highlights from website www.macquarie.co.au/about-macquarie/investor_information) and a return on average ordinary shareholders fund of nearly 24 % a year. In these difficult financial times, decisions made in Macquarie Bank's corporate boardroom in Sydney Australia about the company's need for revenue from customers of its water company in Hampton, New Hampshire should not be rubber stamped by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission. Petitioner Renny Cushing, Susan and Dennis Kepner, and Michael Pierce take the position that rate of return on its

investment that the water company seeks is excessive in the context of economic realities faced by Hampton families and if the rate increase as filed is approved the result would be rates that are unjust and unreasonable

Wherefore Petitioners respectfully request that the Commission will grant this Petition to Intervene of Robert Renny Cushing, Susan Kepner, Dennis Kepner, and Michael Pierce, and other such relief as justice requires.

Respectfully Submitted,


Robert Renny Cushing
395 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, NH 03842

Susan Kepner
105 Mill Road
Hampton, NH 02842

Dennis Kepner
105 Mill Road
Hampton, NH 03842

Michael Pierce
16 Hedman Rd
Hampton, NH 03842

By the agent for the Petitions


Robert Renny Cushing
395 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, NH 03842
603 926 2737

I hereby certify that I have today submitted by mail seven copies of this Petition to Debra Howland, Executive Director of the Commission, a copy to Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire, and a copy to other parties on the listserve of Docket 08-098-01


Robert Renny Cushing

October 30, 2008