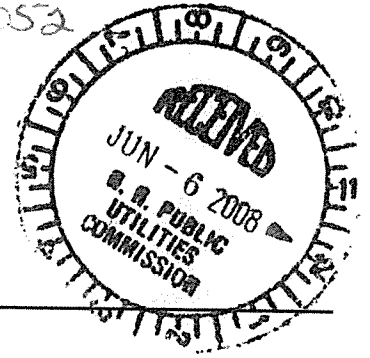


DW08-052



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June 6, 2008

New Hampshire Public Utility Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Proposed rate increase for customers of Pittsfield Aqueduct Co., Inc.

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing regarding the recent notice I received from the Pittsfield Aqueduct Co., Inc on a proposed rate increase for their customers, particularly in my case, those of Birch Hill. It's hard for residents to make a two hour drive from North Conway to Concord, especially during a work day. It would have been nice if a local PUC meeting had been scheduled for those who cannot get to Concord. In place of actually being there, please accept this letter.

Pittsfield Aqueduct Co., Inc (PAC) states they purchased water systems that were inadequate and needed upgrades. They claim to have spent over \$4.3 million dollars to complete these upgrades. Yet, here I am getting the same exact water pressure I had before they purchased the system, still getting notices about harmful bacteria or fluoride at a higher level allowable by the state, and a water notice prior to any drought stating we were on an outdoor water ban using the odd/even method to water. I am not seeing any of the residual effects of any upgrades made.

As I see it, when PAC bought the water system they knew of the needed upgrades, it was no surprise the system was in despair. These proposed upgrades should have been taken into consideration when purchasing the system. If they couldn't afford to complete the upgrades by increasing water bills with the use of installed meters, they should not have purchased the water system.

I understand things cost money and these days everything costs more. I'd be more sympathetic and probably not blink an eye if the price increase was in small increments annually. An increase of 179.64% -311.91% is NOT ACCEPTABLE! Let's face it the element of water has not gone up in price to justify the OUTRAGEOUS proposed increase.

I am asking the NH Public Utilities Commission stand up for the consumers of New Hampshire and say NO to this proposed rate increase. Doing some research I've found that these proposed increases fall higher than the average water utility bill in the state. Please don't let this increase pass! Homeowners are feeling the pinch at every turn and for some a water bill of close to \$100 will force families to choose between paying their water bill or buying groceries. Remember, we did not choose this. I purchased my home with unlimited water use. Understandably, meters were installed and bills went up. Now an increase of 311.91%? How can that be legal?

I regret that I will not be able to attend the public hearing, but from what you have read above I am completely against this VERY LARGE rate increase. I would appreciate this being voiced at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Elicia Bernard  
Birch Hill Resident