

Leighton, Adele

From: Smith, Kim on behalf of PUC
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2008 9:08 AM
To: Leighton, Adele; Howland, Debra; Noonan, Amanda; Raymond, Margaret; Naylor, Mark
Subject: FW: Opposition to DW080-052

I have attached an internet e-mail from our PUC account for Docket No. DW 08-052, Pittsfield Aqueduct Company.

--Kim

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

From: Marissa Long [mailto:marissah79@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2008 10:02 PM
To: PUC; svsun@aol.com; operations@pennichuck.com; senior-management@pennichuck.com; admin@lockelakecolony.com; letters@unionleader.com; newspics@wmur.com; marissah79@hotmail.com
Subject: Opposition to DW080-052

PLesae see the attached.
Thanks
- Marissa Long

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July 15, 2008

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit St Ste 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Docket DW080-052
Pittsfield Aqueduct Co, PHC

Dear NHPUC,

Please accept this letter as a petition to oppose the proposed increase rates in regards to the above docket. I am a resident in Locke Lake.

The rate proposal increase causes substantial curiosity as to Pennichuck's intent when taking over Central Water a few years ago. However, curiosity is all the residents have as we have not had any information as to Pennichucks plans. The condition of the water structure should have been highly assessed at that time Pennichuck took over. Just as when purchasing anything, the buyer is responsible for adequate inspection to make the most educating purchasing decision, businesses are not an exception. One of two situations seem highly likely: a) Pennichuck did not adequately investigate and inspect the water system before making a purchasing decision therefore making a bad business decision and now passing along the issue to residents to foot the bill when it should be the business absorbing the cost or b) Pennichuck did adequately investigate and purchased accordingly, reducing the cost by the needed upcoming plans they had for the water system and are now double dipping by asking residents or didn't financially plan successfully and again are passing the bad business decision along to the residents. I have no issues with my water and never have since Pennichuck took over (we rented a house in Locke Lake when the water was run by Central Water).

My household, in fact every household, is a business. With the cost of energy rising over 300% from last year, the rising cost of gas and food, increased property taxes and a proposed increase in Locke Lake Association dues (which will also be disputed), the proposed water rate increase will cause my business to operate in the red. My business doesn't have the luxury to declare bankruptcy and shut down operations. My business, my family MUST thrive not just survive.

We cannot continue to pass along the cost 100% to consumers. With two incomes, our family earns a decent living but with business passing along costs 100% to consumers, we are slowly leaving the middle class and entering low income. We are not low income; we do not qualify for any assistance with anything. We point blank cannot afford a 300+% increase in our water bill. We have only been homeowners for a year. We are a young growing family. We enjoy living in Center Barnstead and chose to live here to raise our family.

If the Commission and Pennichuck do not operate social and fiscally responsibly, we will be forced to look for alternatives and/or be seriously considering placing our house on the market and relocating our family in efforts to be proactive and avoid foreclosure. We just do not have the option to operate our business in the red. We do not have any accounts on the ledger that can do with less, we cannot work any more than we do. What are our options then? Perhaps Pennichuck and the towns do.

The percentage of rate increase should cause the Commission to not only deny the request at this time, but investigate Pennichucks business practices to ensure they are complying with the correct fiscal and social standards and responsibilities. With such a drastic increase, it must be clear without question there are no fiscal management issues going on. Generating more revenue should be part of the solution, not the only solution. Until this is confirmed, any and all proposed solutions to any issues should be placed on hold. Any major water system issues should be a cost shared by not only consumers, but the business, the Locke Lake Association and the town of Barnstead as well as any other affected town.

We should be working together. We simply cannot continue to allow businesses to place all the financial responsibility onto the consumers, our financial future as a country and as a generation and our children's generation is at stake.

Sincerely,

Marissa A. Long

Cc: Suncook Valley Sun
Locke Lake Association
Pennichuck
Union Leader
WMUR