

From: Loretta Guyett [<mailto:lguyett@comcast.net>]

Sent: Saturday, December 09, 2017 7:07 PM

To: PUC:

Subject: Pennichuck Rate increase

I received notice from you today regarding the Pennichuck East Utility company petitioning for a permanent rate increase of 21.24% (and a temporary rate increase of 16.06%). Their reasoning behind this proposed rate increase is stated as an increase in its operating costs and an investment in its plant and treatment systems. This is totally ridiculous. In the private sector, an increase of 16 or 20% in salary increases is unheard of. Most citizens of NH are fortunate if they get an increase in their income at all in the course of a year. At the company I work for, most employees haven't gotten a raise in 3 years. The average rate increase, when given out, is 3%. By driving to work every morning down 93 South to Massachusetts, I would also wager that most of citizens of NH have the added burden of increase fuel costs because they work in Massachusetts due to the lack of high paying jobs in NH. We also have senior citizens on fixed low incomes having a hard time paying for fuel costs to heat their homes in the winter or pay the outrageous property taxes in this state. Health insurance premiums on the Affordable Care Act and in employer subsidized healthcare have increased by significantly. Having clean water is a necessity that we can't live without, and Pennichuk has the monopoly on water supply in this area. We can't go anyplace else. There is no competition in the market. With the volume of customers they have, I would think even a 3% increase would raise their bottom line enough to cover these additional operating costs they are claiming. Please help the citizens of NH by not allowing them this ridiculous increase in our water rates.

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