

From: Bill O'Donnell [<mailto:billod3711@live.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2017 11:27 AM
To: PUC:
Subject: Pennichuck Water Rate Increase

My name is William O'Donnell and I am a Pennichuck water customer. I recently moved to Pelham and live in an over 55 development and am on a fixed income. I was unaware of how truly high the water rates in New Hampshire were when I moved here to be closer to my grandchildren. Unfortunately, it appears that they may go even higher. I currently pay \$51.76 a month for a 1" meter. I guess the 1" meter is required to have sprinklers, which are required by the town. However, I only use about 3 CCF of water per month and my bill is over \$70.00 monthly. With the new rate increase my bills would increase to about \$81.20 temporarily and \$84.86 permanently. That's more than what I used to pay per quarter, including sewerage and here I am on a septic system. I would like to voice my strong opposition to the increase as we have no alternative to the meter rate. We can't change the meter size to 5/8" (so I have been told) to save money. Nor is there any other water company to provide competition, and there is no break for users over the age of 65. I can't imagine any scenario that warrants such high percentage increases other than expanding the utility's infrastructure which should only be repaid through future rate collections, not increases on current customers. It would seem that some alternatives to this monopolizing should be in order. Thank you for your time.

William O'Donnell