

We have read recently about the requested increase for the Pennichuck water utility in Litchfield NH. This is outlandish, there is no good evidence for it, and it comes at a time when they have been charging too much for too long. I think they feel that they can get away with this because of mandated hookups in the north end of town where water was polluted by St Gobain and wells are no longer possible. I live in a neighborhood in the center of Litchfield where wells were discouraged because of proximity to the former Hudson landfill, so every house in this area is a Pennichuck house. These bills have risen steadily since the 90s, they've been given every increase they have ever asked for and it's time for that to end. Every household in town has suffered income loss in this year, and of course they're looking for more money and feel entitled to the increase because of the amount of time and effort they put into the work that was done in the north end of town and the connection to Merrimack they installed. But, the water quality is shoddy, the service is scant, and it's time for the PUC to intervene in favor of homeowners instead of just granting the increase like every other year. If you grant an increase without increased oversight on the quality issue there's an issue with confidence. I know local response to this has been lacking, it takes a long time in a small town to get people involved, but this is an undeserved increase. Please dedicate some time and effort to this decision, and try to look at this from our point of view. Unlike electricity where there at least the appearance of a choice there is no choice in selection of a water utility, besides moving to another town.

thanks for your time

Steve Tirrell
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