

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter to protest the proposed rate hike for Pennichuck Corporation customers in Litchfield.

The rate increase proposed is astronomical and inequitable compared to the surrounding towns. There is no reason that the residents of Litchfield (myself included) should pay between 2.9 and 5.7 times the surrounding communities.

This is especially unconscionable for myself and the residents who have had to abandon their wells due to the St. Gobain PFOA contaminations. These residents and I didn't want to switch to town water in the first place and now we are being forced to pay an exorbitant rate for a utility that I used to enjoy for free.

Since Litchfield will be paying between 200% – 500% of the neighboring towns, it only stands to reason that we are subsidizing improvements in the other 28 surrounding communities. There is no reason that Litchfield should be chosen to pay for this.

This utility provides a service that no household can dispense with and there are no other options for water than Pennichuck. Pennichuck is therefore morally obliged to ensure that it does not discriminate against or maltreat one town in its customer base. This rate hike is abusive and unreasonable.

On their website, Pennichuck writes that their mission is to “be a premier supplier of water in New Hampshire by providing reliable, high quality, and affordable water in sufficient quantities.” We as residents have all experienced the pains of having the brown and murky water that Pennichuck has a tendency to provide. It is only right that they don't go forward with extorting outrageous rates for this subquality water.

The increase letter received from Pennichuck implies the proposed increase is partially due to adding new consumers, and the need for infrastructure improvements, due to the St. Gobain PFOA contamination. I ask why the customers of Litchfield should bear the cost of this - it should have been considered BEFORE the connections were made, and included in the cost to St. Gobain.

Best regards,
Kari Jo Fruzen