

From: Cousins <dmascousins@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 3:22 PM

To: PUC: Clerks Office <clerksoffice@puc.nh.gov>

Cc: Steven Roy <steven.roy2014@gmail.com>; zampini@comcast.net; bob_zampini@comcast.net

Subject: Docket#DW21-093 Aquarion Water Co. of NH Inc. Hearing

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To The Public Utilities Commission,

We are writing to you today as long time residents and members of the Wiggin Way/Winterberry Homeowners Association. We are writing to respectfully request that there is an approval by the PUC to make the water connection we are currently using permanent and allow each of the 43 homes in the neighborhood have their own water meter as a regular Aquarion customer.

My husband and I, and our family, have lived in our home on Wiggin Way for 22 years, and are the original homeowners. For many years we enjoyed safe drinking water from our community wells until our wells failed to meet water quality standards due to naturally occurring arsenic, and stopped producing enough water to meet our needs. At that time the NHDES ordered Aquarion Water Company to accept us as customers. Since 2017 we have had a temporary single connection and have enjoyed safe and reliable water service.

For the last six years the Wiggin Way/Winterberry Homeowners Association board has worked diligently to make this connection permanent and to have each household have their own water meter. For the last six years, since 2016, two neighboring towns have opposed this connection and a permanent solution of providing safe and reliable water to 43 families, at a great cost to each family and many hours of work by the association board.

The two towns of Hampton and North Hampton continue to oppose this permanent status even though we have had the temporary connection for the last five years to Aquarion. These two towns continue to raise a wide range of extraneous and irrelevant issues including a demand that we should pay more for water as regular customers than residents in Hampton and North Hampton.

Does any one town or citizen have the right to determine who gets a utility and at what cost? Could they determine who we receive our electricity, cable or phone service from and how much it should cost? Does the water in our ground belong to one town or person? Does the air? Or does it belong to everyone?

Do the families living in the Wiggin Way/Winterberry neighborhood have the same right to clean water, clean air, electricity, cable etc. as our neighboring towns at a similar price? I can't imagine that the answer to this question would be anything but yes.

To summarize, the families in our community are asking to receive safe and reliable water into their homes at a fair price. We have had a connection to clean water for seven years at a much higher rate than others with the same service. In addition, the cost of fighting this has been a hardship for many families. The DES, Aquarian Water Company and 43 families believe that a permanent connection to this water supply is viable, sound and legal and not an infringement on anyone else's rights.

We respectfully urge you to approve a permanent connection from Aquarian to the Wiggin Way/Winterberry Homeowners Association and apply a similar rate as the neighboring towns. Thank you for reading and considering this request.

Sincerely,

Maria and Dean Cousins
22 Wiggin Way
Stratham, NH 03885