

From: Eileen Joyce-Coute <eileentjc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 11:39 PM
To: PUC: Clerks Office <ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov>
Subject: Docket # DW21-093

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To The Public Utilities Commission,

My family has resided at 34 Winterberry Lane in Stratham, NH for 19 wonderful years. We have so enjoyed raising our three children in a neighborhood filled with incredible families. Residents of Winterberry/Wiggin Way are the kind of people who consistently give back to their community and would do anything to help a neighbor in need.

Our neighborhood is unique in the fact that it is divided between the towns of Stratham & North Hampton. Although a town boundary may exist, there have been many friendships that have developed over the years between the residents of Stratham & North Hampton. Our entire neighborhood has seen its fair share of tragedy and when friends were in need, the two towns always came together as one to provide overwhelming support.

Six years ago, the wells on the Stratham side of the neighborhood failed to meet water quality standards due to naturally occurring arsenic and stopped producing enough water to meet our needs. The arsenic levels were a concern for my husband and I, especially with three young children in the house and cancer rates on the rise on the seacoast. We often experienced water shortages, resulting in extremely low pressure, sometimes running out completely. When we were forced to shut down the well system, we had to go without water for several days and relied on pool water that was dumped in our wells. I remember the water being brown which did not set my mind at ease, especially when trying to cook & shower. As you can well imagine, those few days were extremely stressful, especially with young children.

We were beyond grateful when NHDES ordered Aquarion to make a temporary connection with the North Hampton water supply, providing all families with safe and reliable water. In speaking with my North Hampton neighbors, they had zero issues with this order and were relieved for us. Going without water for days was incredibly difficult and it's something I hope that you and your families never have to experience.

As I recall, one of your primary concerns regarding our connection was a water shortage during summer drought conditions. In the past 6 years, we have experienced two severe droughts and have had zero issues.

Respectfully, I ask that you approve a permanent connection, so we can provide safe & reliable water for our entire neighborhood at a reasonable price. This unnecessary legal battle has proved costly for many families, especially during Covid times. Our **volunteer** water board has worked tirelessly on behalf of 43 families to seek approval. The DES & Aquarion support our cause, so I encourage you to do the same, particularly during these trying times for many.

Sincerely,

Eileen Joyce-Coute
34 Winterberry Lane
Stratham, NH 03885