

From: Rita Lonardo <rmlonardo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 3:09 PM
To: PUC: Clerks Office <clerksoffice@puc.nh.gov>
Subject: DW21-093 Aquarion Franchise Extension

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Dear sirs,

I am writing to request that you promptly rule in favor of the Aquarion Water Co franchise extension to the Wiggin way/ Winterberry neighborhood with regular customer rates and no surcharge for fire protection as requested by the towns of Hampton and North Hampton. We have been battling the two towns for the last 6 years to become regular Aquarion customers. They have been making up reason after reason to stop us. When one reason is shot down they make up another. It seems to come down to animosity to the town of Stratham and we are stuck in the middle. We have been required to maintain our own water system while also paying Aquarion and legal fees. We have fire protection through the town of Stratham paid for through our taxes. If we have a fire we call the town of Stratham. Whether or not the hydrant is used does not change whether we are customers of Aquarion or not. The hydrant was there before and remains there now. No other neighborhoods near a North Hampton hydrant are asked to pay North Hampton a penalty. We understand from Aquarion that there is one rate for permanent residential water customers. Any other charge would be discriminatory. This is just another mean - spirited attempt by the towns to extract an ounce of blood from us and further drag out this process.

Additionally, what right do Hampton and North Hampton have to tell a private water company that they can't take on new customers and expand their business. The connection is a financial benefit to Hampton and North Hampton. Their costs are divided by a larger customer base. Additionally we have paid \$15,000 in wica charges that have benefited the towns.

They have also raised the issue of having to fix our system if something goes wrong. That goes two ways. We have to pay to fix the pipes in the towns if something happens, which is much more likely due to the age and size of their distribution system.

All we want is to be regular customers of the Aquarion Water Co so we have a safe and reliable water supply. This has been dragging on for too long. Please rule quickly in our favor. Thank you for listening.

Rita Lonardo
14 Christie Lane
Stratham