

Leighton, Adele

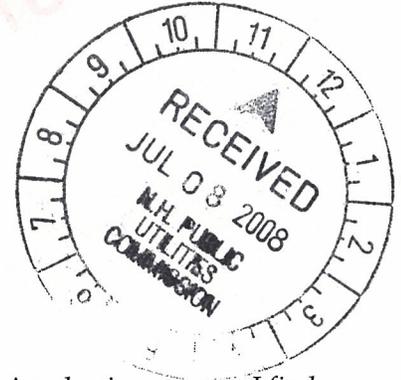
From: Smith, Kim on behalf of PUC
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 11:20 AM
To: Leighton, Adele; Howland, Debra; Noonan, Amanda; Naylor, Mark; Raymond, Margaret
Subject: FW: Penachuck Water Rate Request - ATTENTION Debra Howland
Importance: High

I have attached an internet e-mail from our PUC account for Docket No. DW 08-052, Pittsfield Aqueduct Company.

--Kim

-----Original Message-----

From: Keith Lion [mailto:keithlion@lionins.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 8:40 AM
To: PUC
Subject: Penachuck Water Rate Request - ATTENTION Debra Howland
Importance: High



I am writing pertaining to the proposed rate increase requested by Penachuck Water. As a business owner I find it difficult to believe that our PUC would allow the purchase by Penachuck several years back of the Locke Lake facility without requiring due diligences to ensure that they would have the where withal to purchase, maintain and bring systems up to standards. As a business owner I am required to do so and to determine how to recoup my expenditure without being bailed out by my customers hardship. The rate increase will subject many to a greater hardship than is acceptable. I own 2 homes in Locke Lake Community and one vacant lot; the requested increase would take my monthly combined bill from around \$60.00 per month to around \$170 per month, which is unacceptable. This would cause great hardship on my family and our ability to retire and not become a burden to our state.

Penachuck states that since their acquiring the water facility that Locke Lake continues to experience extraordinary growth, which is not the case. Locke Lake has around 900 sites and very few remain undeveloped with building being no great than the surrounding area, and in reality less than other communities in the Lake Region.

Penachuck Water needs to run their For Profit Business as I or anyone else would be required to do, spreading their exposure and risk to all their customers, not just a small handful. They need to be forced to seek other remedies. If I announced a 300+% increase to my clients, I would have no clients, as they would seek others to provide the services I offer; the problem is that the customers of Penachuck Water can not do so as there is not a alternative for us. We are being manipulated by a conglomerate that truly doesn't care. With 800 to 900 homes as customers I calculate that Penachuck Water stands to gross over \$750,000 yearly, which would pay off their campus improvements within 3 to 5 years while bankrupting many families in our community. I am requesting that the PUC walk in the shoes of the public and prevent this 300+% increase from being levied on us. We all understand the need for increases tied to Cost of Living from time to time, but this requested increase is ridiculous, extraordinary and can't be allowed to go through.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email; I know my neighbors feel the same.