

Leighton, Adele

From: Smith, Kim on behalf of PUC
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2008 2:53 PM
To: Leighton, Adele; Howland, Debra
Subject: FW: Lakes Region Water Rate Increase

I have attached an internet e-mail from our PUC account.

--Kim

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

From: thewelchsix@aol.com [mailto:thewelchsix@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2008 8:14 PM
To: PUC; Naylor, Mark; Hatfield, Meredith; hcmerrow@verizon.net; hnc03227@yahoo.com; vlheard@worldpath.net; joseph.kenney@leg.state.nh.us
Subject: Lakes Region Water Rate Increase

Debra A. Howland
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Dear Ms. Howland,

It is with great concern that I write this letter in regard to the recent rate increase that was granted to Lakes Region Water Company.

My water rates in Lake Ossipee Village Freedom, NH were increased by 115% in 2006.

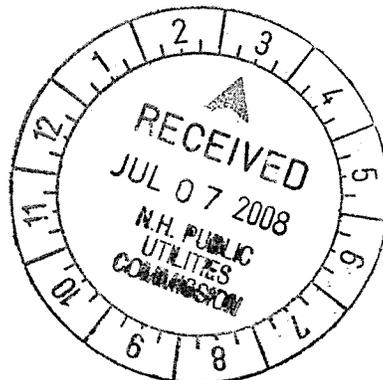
Now, because Lakes Region Water Company needs to make upgrades to Paradise Shores in Moultonborough, Indian Mound in Ossipee, Gunstock Glen and Brake Hill Acres in Gilford, Hidden Valley in Tuftonboro, and 175 Estates in Thornton my rates will increase again!!!!

I can not believe that the PUC agreed to this rate increase. My husband and I will have to pay **more money** for the water systems in other towns to be upgraded, and yet our water system hasn't seen the upgrades that were agreed to per PUC order 24,692, dated October 31, 2006. To refresh your memory, PUC Order 24,692 stated that Lakes Region Water Company was to install meters in every home in LOV, and other water systems. I don't have a water meter installed in my home, nor have I been contacted about such an installation going to take place. There has been no communication of the intent to install meters since the mention in the PUC Order.

Our water pressure fluctuates constantly, and it only worsens in the summer months when the non-locals move in for a few weeks. The quality of our drinking water has been getting worse. I have to run our faucet each time to clear the water before I can use it for cooking. We've taken to drinking bottled water-yet another expense for our household to find monies for since our water doesn't taste too good to drink. There is apparently, lead and copper contamination in our water.

So, basically you agreed that Lakes Region Water Company could increase our rates to pay for upgrades to other water systems that doesn't include my own. It's no wonder the rich keep getting richer and those of us in the middle class continue to struggle to survive and meet our financial obligations. I'll see no benefits from these upgrades, but Lakes Region Water Company will see the benefits of an increased bottom line.

It is too bad that when you choose to hold your hearings it is always in the middle of the day when people have to be at work so they can't participate in the hearings. Do you think that the government plans things this way??? I sure do, because otherwise I would have been at the hearing-oh, but wait, as a member of the working middle class, I can't really afford to take the day off from work, drive to Concord, plus fill my gas tank at \$4.09 for regular unleaded.



I am so angry that the PUC didn't consider those of us who will see no benefit from this rate increase. You didn't do your job, and your vote certainly isn't in my best interest. Thanks so much for making Lakes Region Water Company a richer business. I appreciate your dedication to increasing the coffers of Lakes Region Water Company.

Sincerely,

Mary Welch

cc: Meredith Hatfield, NH Consumer Advocate
Mark Naylor, Director, Water & Gas Division, NH PUC
Senator Joseph Kenney
Representative Howard Cunningham
Representative Virginia Heard
Representative Harry Merrow

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