

Carmody, Jody

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DW 08-073

From: Smith, Kim
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 12:19 PM
To: Carmody, Jody
Subject: FW: Petition to Increase in Rates

Hi Jody,

I'm forwarding this letter to you for docketing. This and the prior e-mail that I just sent to you both belong in DW 07-073.

Thanks again,
Kim

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

From: Smith, Kim On Behalf Of PUC
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 9:56 AM
To: Leighton, Adele; Howland, Debra; Noonan, Amanda; Raymond, Margaret; Naylor, Mark
Subject: FW: Petition to Increase in Rates

I have attached an internet e-mail from our PUC account regarding Pennichuck Water Works.

--Kim

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

From: douglaslibby@comcast.net [mailto:douglaslibby@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2008 10:32 PM
To: PUC
Subject: re:Petition to Increase in Rates

To Whom it may concern:

This letter is to voice my protest of a 25.27% increase in rates. Water is life's essential resource and I understand its cost will go up with time, but a 25% jump in one year is just plain ridiculous. I understand supply and demand, but there has only been a 1.5% increase in demand. Our economy is not healthy right now and the average American cannot afford such an increase. I read the company's quarterly earnings and they are doing quite well right now compared to a lot of other publicly held companies. Net income and revenues are both up compared to 2007. There has also been some real estate and cell tower sales that have increased revenue. It appears that Pennichuck's customers are already driving future growth. This 25% increase will generate 5.5 million in additional revenue. How much did it cost to replace the 5.5 million gallon tank? How much will installing radio meter reading equipment cost? Is this truly needed and will it result in an increase in efficiency and decrease in operating expenses? It is stated that Pennichuck Water needs this increase to recover increased operational expenses and to continue to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Aren't they in compliance now? What exactly needs to be done to continue compliance?

I fully understand replacing aging infrastructure and upgrading the water treatment plant. A rate increase is probably needed for this. It does not need to be 25% though. Revenue is supposed to cover most of this. It is also supposed to dictate employee rate increases. How much has payroll increased? Exactly why is the meter charge going up 21.67%? Is every meter to every home getting replaced so they are all capable of transmitting radio signals? This is a want and NOT a need. Is water in such short supply that it is going up 24.25%? Are we trying to conserve through financial means?

A more conservative rate increase is needed here. This average citizen cannot comprehend why a drastic increase is being forced upon him and his neighbors. One third of the this Nation's corn is being used to fuel our cars and the price at the grocery

store hasn't gone up 25%. Why would my water go up that much? Please reconsider this increase or at least spread it out over a longer period of time. My cost to heat my home has doubled this year and this will only add insult to injury. How about 5% annually for each of the next 5 years or 10% now and 3% annually for the next 5 years? This way it will at least co-inside with inflation.

Thank you,

Douglas Libby
2 Swenson Road
Bedford, NH 03110
978-808-5025 (cell)