

Leighton, Adele

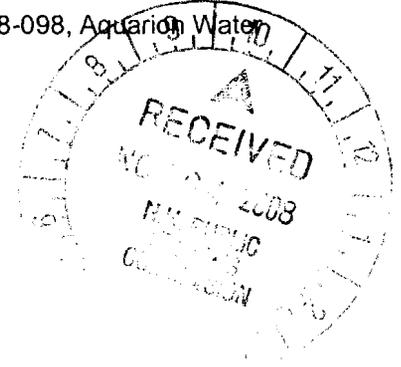
From: Smith, Kim on behalf of PUC
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2008 9:50 AM
To: Leighton, Adele; Howland, Debra; Noonan, Amanda; Naylor, Mark; Raymond, Margaret
Subject: FW: Proposed Rate Increase

I have attached an internet e-mail from our PUC account regarding Docket No. DW 08-098, Aquarion Water Company.

-Kim

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

From: GEBINC@aol.com [mailto:GEBINC@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 03, 2008 8:18 PM
To: PUC
Subject: Proposed Rate Increase



As a local homeowner using Aquarion Water Co. and Seacoast business owner, I was shocked to get the letter for the proposed increase in rates. The 21.08% that Aquarion Water Co. is asking for is absurd! No other company, other than the monopoly they are, could ever pass along an increase that large and get away with it. Being as they are investor owned, it is not the responsibility of the NH customers to bail out a company for poor results on investments that they have made. As a business owner that has made several acquisitions over the years, I know that it is my responsibility to do a complete due diligence of each company that I buy. If I buy a company and the infrastructure needs upgrades, then that is a decision one must make at the time of purchase. One can not go and buy a company and expect immediate payback on any improvements, at the expense of its customers. If it was a normal company with competition, you would be out of business with those increases. Just because it is a utility with no competition, does not give it the right to "soak the customers with their water". And you wonder why this country is in the turmoil it is in! My employees average salary increase this year has been in the area of 3-1/2 to 4%. How in the world do you expect the average person to absorb the increases that Aquarion is looking for? Let's get back to reality and the grassroots of what frugal New Hampshire is all about. I urge you to reject the petition for increase in rates on November 5, 2008 and come back to the table with something more realistic.

Sincerely,

Eric T. Burgon
Hampton, NH

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