

Leighton, Adele

DW 09-051
~~DW 08-052~~

From: Smith, Kim on behalf of PUC
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 8:50 AM
To: Leighton, Adele
Subject: FW: Joint Petition filed by Pennichuck East Utilities (PEU) and Pittsfield Aqueduct Company (PAC)

Hi Adele,

I have attached an internet e-mail from our PUC account. I think it might go in Docket No. DW 08-073.

--Kim

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

From: kaybee145@aol.com [mailto:kaybee145@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 8:32 AM
To: PUC
Subject: Joint Petition filed by Pennichuck East Utilities (PEU) and Pittsfield Aqueduct Company (PAC)

Ms. Debra Howland
Executive Director
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Ms. Howland:

I am writing in response to the notification that I recently received regarding the Joint Petition for Approval of the Transfer of Assets and Franchise Rights and Long Term Indebtedness filed by Pennichuck East Utilities (PEU) and Pittsfield Aqueduct Company (PAC).

I am a current customer of PEU and I ask that you deny the above stated petition. While the document indicates that my rates will not increase at the time of the transfer, there is an implicit promise within the document that this transaction WILL result in higher rates for existing PEU consumers and that these higher rates will not result in any benefit to these users - it will transfer debt costs from one group of consumers to another.

I understand that the rates proposed for North Country customers are obscenely high. However, the proposed rates would fund improvements that have benefited these specific customers. It is not fair to the existing customers of PEU to raise our rates, even if in the future, to fund improvements to a system from which we receive no benefit. I can only speak to the monthly bill that I receive in Litchfield, but I believe that our rates are high enough when considering the costs billed for maintenance of the water system and of the fire hydrants without asking us to also pick up the tab for the improvements to another system.

I sympathize with the North Country customers but people in Southern New Hampshire are also suffering. The town of Litchfield is seriously behind on property tax collections, people are losing their jobs, and others are taking pay cuts; to ask that we "chip in" to pay for someone else's bill is unfair, especially considering the current economic environment. Perhaps PAC could investigate whether funding would be available through federal or state grants to offset

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the costs, thereby reducing the impact to the North Country costumers. Unfortunately, transferring the assets and the associated debt to PEU via this petition results in existing PEU costumers sharing the responsibility for these costs ad infinitum. We have paid for our system and we should not be asked to pay for the system benefitting another group, even if it will help reduce their costs as those costs will merely be shifted from them to us.

Respectfully,

Keri Douglas
Litchfield, NH

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