

Commissioners
NHPUC
20 S. Fruit St, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Aquarion Water filing for rate increase DW12-085, 25373

July 31, 2012

To the Commission:

I am writing to request the NH PUC to reject Aquarion's proposed 18%+ rate increase on the customer base. I am one of those customers and find the proposal to be outrageous.

I have three simple points:

- 1) At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, increasing expense on a basic commodity is a budget-breaking burden. The 18% cost increase will have to come from someplace else – where would the PUC recommend the 'average' family cut next? Food? Heat? Medical care for children? This cost increase simply is not bearable by many working families.
- 2) What makes the 18%+ rate increase particularly egregious is that there are no other water providers. Given Aquarion's monopoly, increasing rates by the proposed margin is abusive. I run a business and would love to raise my rates 18%, but the free market will not allow it. Given there is no 'free market' in water, the PUC must moderate such price fluctuations. Give me an option in another water provider, so I can escape such financial customer abuse. I'd rather keep my additional \$65/year (estimated increase)
- 3) There are some that suggest the PUC will simply rubber-stamp this rate increase, demonstrating a true lack of oversight. I am not qualified to comment on that assessment however, I ask the PUC members; put yourselves in our situation - a difficult economy where families are already struggling and a monopolistic provider - and consider the impact of approving such an outrageous rate increase. How will it look for the Commission?

These are my three points that support my urging the Commission to reject Aquarion's disingenuous argument for a lofty and burdensome rate increase. If the PUC simply accepts it, what is to be said about consumer protection? What will be next – a 20% PSNH rate increase? No, New Hampshire has a long history of financial prudence and 18% increases on anything simply do not fall in line with our history.

Reject this absurd proposal now!

Respectfully submitted,



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DISPATCH