

Dear Public Utility Commissioners:

As a homeowner affected by the action requested on Docket DW 20-112, I respectfully submit my statement and request to be a party to the matter. My position is that the request for a rate hike be denied.

As information, ours is a pretty quiet little neighborhood where neighbors try to help one another in need. This is essential to our existence because we are all of very modest means. Many of the folks in this neighborhood are over 60 years old and on fixed incomes. A few have young and/or special needs children. ALL have been affected by the tumbling economy as it relates to Covid 19. There is not a single family in this neighborhood who is living beyond check to check means, at the very best. Frankly, some do not even receive a check! Nobody in this neighborhood wants to have to sell their homes of 10-30 years because they cannot afford the cost of a basic human need---Water!

Frankly, I have SEVERAL specific concerns about Abenaki Water's request for a rate increase, including but not limited to:

A. The configuration of the system as originally constructed---I believe it is substandard for serving the community.

B. The current age and condition of the system---I believe it has never had any serious upgrading since installation. The prior owners seemingly took our money for years and never put anything BACK into the system for meaningful service upgrades.

C. The quality of the water delivered through this system----there can often be an odor of sulfur in the tap water. I installed a home filtration unit because of this, and it routinely fills with sediment pretty quickly.

D. The frequency and length of service interruptions we experience---in the past several years we generally run short of water in the summer months. We don't ever water our lawns because the water is too precious---we need it to drink and bathe! Outages are periodic and not unexpected.

E. The simple fact that we ALREADY pay the second highest rates for water governed by the PUC in entire the state of NH!

F. The exorbitant amount of the increase requested---who can pay \$2000 per year for water? That amount alone is generally higher than all of our other essential utilities combined for a single household. It is ridiculous!

Thank you,

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