

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF GREATER DIAMOND POINT

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181 Discovery View Drive
Sequim, WA 98382
360-683-0769

June 6, 2008

WUTC c/o Dennis Shutler
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S. W.
P .O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Mr. Dennis Shutler,

The enclosed petitions are to give our folks here at Diamond Point a chance for their voice to be heard regarding the proposed water rate increase requested by Aquarius Utilities, LLC. (Docket #UW-080926)

Diamond Point Water System is primarily composed of senior citizens who live on a very fixed income. The high cost of gas makes it prohibitive for them to travel to Olympia. Some have health problems.

This increase in rates was proposed to make Aquarius Utilities financially viable to qualify for two million plus in loans. Our zero base is now at \$30.95. This increase would raise our average monthly bill by approximately \$7.00 a month.

Aquarius has also proposed a \$5.00 surcharge for this year. Aquarius has also applied for over two millions in loans. This will add another approximately \$10 to our rate when loans have to be repaid. This will result in a very large increase to our water rate and we will still have a water system that has been described as a disaster waiting to happen, with fire hydrants for only 40 out of 300 people. Those hydrants are not located close to greater Diamond Point.

It is very simple. We cannot afford this rate increase. The Single Rate Tariff only benefits water companies with very large customer bases. We request Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to help the consumers of Washington State afford water and avoid a pipe infrastructure failure, instead of only protecting the welfare of independently owned small water companies. Aquarius has less than 1000 customers companywide and we cannot afford to totally support them particularly when they do not reinvest in their own business or maintain a working budget. Where did the \$429,370 income go in 2007? Not in maintenance of existing pipe infrastructure.

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Look at what Aquarius has submitted for projects versus what it has executed over the years.

Look at what benefit Diamond Point has received versus the other Aquarius water companies.

Look at what is currently planned and monies getting readied versus what benefit we are receiving.

Look at what is being proposed as a surcharge based project for the next 32 years.

Look at the imbalance versus fairness in rate setting.

Look at what the WUTC has permitted to go on and is asked again to continue.

That record will include a 0 use rate of \$30.95 + \$7 + \$10 + \$5 or ~\$53/month in 1-2 years.

And all we get is more water storage than current customers need, but future expansion is "secured".

It is time to say no.

Respectfully, Hugh VanderHeul for
Concerned Citizens of Greater Diamond Point.

Thank you for your consideration.