

DOCKET # 10-00189

Tevin Thompson - Fwd: Tennessee American Water Rate Increase

From: Shiri Anderson
To: Thompson, Tevin
Date: 9/28/2010 11:32 AM
Subject: Fwd: Tennessee American Water Rate Increase

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T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

FYI

>>> Donnie & Teresa <donnieteresa@aol.com> 9/27/2010 4:43 PM >>>
 Shiri Anderson:

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon and allowing me to send an e-mail to you with my comments about an increase in rates by Tennessee American Water. I assume that this issue has already been dealt with and my opinion is most likely nothing more than an opinion, but I thank you for your time.

This is not a complaint about the service or product delivered by Tennessee American Water and I commend them for performing their job quite well. My issue is with some of the reasons they gave for filing a request for the rate increase. There may appear to be a touch of resentment on my part for the perceived advantages that an employee of Tennessee American Water has in their chosen place of employment but that is not what I am trying to convey.

With regard to the letter I received from Tennessee American Water which is dated September 2010, please note the information in paragraph four (4) about the "increased cost" they are experiencing. I have no quarrel about the reality of the increasing cost of energy, street paving, permit cost and a property tax increase. I myself have experienced increased cost of energy and property taxes and I can't raise my rate to cover these added expenses. I have to tighten my belt and go on.

My issue is about the employee pension and healthcare cost. I am self-employed so I hope you can understand why I'm a little offended about this. I compete with other large and small businesses to retain current customers and obtain new customers. Who is the competition of Tennessee American Water? My healthcare cost has also increased and I don't have a pension from anybody to look forward to. My contributions to a retirement fund are very small and will not last very long.

I guess in closing that if I were on the Tennessee Regulatory Board I would respond to Tennessee American Water's request for a rate increase as follows. Your employees are compensated quite well right now for jobs they perform. If cost for your healthcare increases the employee will have to cover it. If you want to increase the amount of money going to your pension, then contact your supervisor and they will put you in contact with the proper personnel to do this.

My thanks again to you Shiri Anderson for allowing me to send this e-mail with my thoughts about the rate increase.

Donald W Ray