LaVoie to protest Pegasus cable rates

WINSTED – Community lawyer Charlene LaVoie said she will protest the lack of information available to the public before the state Department of Public Utility Control hearing tonight on a proposed increase in Pegasus Cablevision's rates.

The hearing will be at 6:30 p.m. in Room 106 at Northwestern Connecticut Community-Technical College. Pegasus has proposed a 15 percent increase in its basic cable rates.

LaVoie said she has suggested to the DPUC they develop a protocol for rate increases that requires the cablevision firm to provide a fact sheet for subscribers outlining the proposed increase. The fact sheet would first be reviewed by the DPUC, she said.

"The information should be provided in Pegasus bill so (subscribers) can have a basis to argue or support the increase," she said.

DPUC spokesman Beryl Lyons said Monday Pegasus is using a cost-of-services analysis to justify its increase instead of abiding by the federal benchmark set for cablevision firms. The cost-service analysis is higher than the benchmark, and firms that use the method must prove they can justify the increase, she said. 9/20/94 R/C