

July 28, 2022

Via Email

Hon. Carmen Diaz, Acting Secretary Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Ave, 9th Floor P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

RE: I/M/O The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Response to the COVID-19
Pandemic - Establishment of a Regulatory Asset for Incremental COVID-19
Related Expenses
BPU Docket No. AO20060471

Dear Acting Secretary Diaz:

Pursuant to the Board's Order dated July 2, 2020 and effective July 12, 2020 in the above-referenced matter authorizing each of New Jersey's regulated utilities to create a COVD-19-related regulatory asset, New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc. hereby submits its Quarterly Report, including additional data as required by the Board's Order effective September 21, 2021 in this matter, together with a verification of Jamie D. Hawn, Senior Manager, Rates and Regulatory.

M. afram

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher M. Arfaa

Director, Corporate Counsel

CMA:dlc

cc: Service list (via email)

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW JERSEY : SS

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH:

Jamie D. Hawn, of full age, being duly sworn, according to law, deposes and says:

- 1. I am the Senior Manager, Rates and Regulatory, for New Jersey-American
 Water Company, Inc. and authorized to make this Verification on behalf of that Company.
- 2. I have reviewed the within Quarterly Report, and the information contained therein is true according to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Sworn to and subscribed this 28th day of July, 2022

Donna L. Carney Notary Public

Donna Carney
Notary Public
State of New Jersey
My Commission Expires May 24, 2023

I. Background

Starting with the State's first confirmed case on March 4, 2020, New Jersey has taken aggressive public health actions to combat the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents. On March 9, 2020, Governor Murphy declared a state of emergency and a public health emergency in the state. Beginning on March 16, 2020, the Governor announced aggressive social distancing measures to mitigate the further spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey. Schools were closed as well as many businesses. On March 21, 2020, Governor Murphy directed all residents to stay at home until further notice and further mandated the closure of all non-essential retail businesses. New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc. ("NJAWC") and Environmental Disposal Corp. ("EDC"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NJAWC (together, the "Company"), have adapted their operations and practices to ensure the safety of their employees and customers.

Since the COVID-19 public health emergency was declared, the Company has implemented the following temporary measures to provide additional protection to our customers:

• March 12, 2020: Stopped service disconnections for non-payment

• March 12, 2020: Stopped sending notices of disconnection

• March 13, 2020: Began reconnecting all customers who had previously been disconnected

for non-payment

• March 13, 2020: Began waiving reconnection fees

• March 16, 2020: Stopped applying late fees and interest penalties to past-due accounts

• March 18, 2020: Began sending courtesy letters, and making courtesy phone calls, to

customers with past-due balances to inform them of the amount of their past due balances, but making no mention of disconnection or late fees

and interest penalties

NJAWC also temporarily waived certain eligibility requirements for its low-income payment and H20 programs to help those who have been economically impacted by COVID-19.

On July 2, 2020, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or "Board") issued its Order Authorizing Establishment of a Regulatory Asset for Incremental COVID-19 Related Expenses in Docket No. AO20060471 ("Order"). The Order authorized each regulated utility to create a COVID-19 related regulatory asset by deferring on its books and records the prudently-incurred incremental costs related to COVID-19 beginning on March 9, 2020 and through September 30, 2021, or 60 days after Governor Murphy ends the public health emergency, or in the absence of such an order, declaration, proclamation or similar announcement, 60 days from the time the public health emergency automatically terminates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:13-3(b), whichever is later. Additionally, the Order required that all deferred incremental COVID-19 related costs be offset by any federal or state assistance that the utility may receive as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Board also ordered all affected utilities to maintain detailed records of all deferred costs and savings during the public health emergency. The Board required each utility to file quarterly reports of the COVID-19 related costs incurred and offsets verified by an authorized representative, with the first report due by August 1, 2020, for the period ending June 30, 2020.

Under the Order, all affected utilities were required to file a petition with the Board by December 31, 2021, or within 60 days of the close of the regulatory asset period, whichever is later. Any potential rate recovery is required to be addressed in this proceeding, or in the alternative, a utility's future base rate case.

On June 4, 2021, the Governor signed legislation ending the New Jersey public health emergency but maintaining the state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020.1

On June 14, 2021, the Governor announced that the moratorium on utility shut offs would end on June 30, 2021. However, the Governor's Executive Order No. 246 established a six-month grace period, through December 31, 2021, during which no water or wastewater utility may discontinue service to New Jersey residents, which includes all residential accounts and any accounts primarily serving residential customers, due to nonpayment. On December 21, 2021, Governor Murphy signed Senate Bill 4081, extending the utility shutoff grace period established under Executive Order No. 246 from December 31, 2021, to March 15, 2022, for all water, municipal electric, and sewer customers. The Company continues to comply with this directive.

On July 21, 2021, the Company filed a letter motion that requested that the Board: 1) extend the regulatory asset period authorized under the Order to allow the Company to properly include all of its COVID-19 financial impacts, including those due to the shutoff moratorium disconnection grace period; and 2) adjust the deadline for submitting a recovery petition associated with such deferred regulatory asset to a date no later than 60 days after the close of the extended regulatory asset period.

On September 14, 2021, the BPU ordered that the Regulatory Asset Period be extended from September 30, 2021 to December 31, 2022, and that a petition for recovery of these assets be filed within 60 days of this new date. Additionally, the September 14th BPU order required utility companies regulated by the Board to file a formal plan by October 1, 2021, outlining how the additional time afforded by the order "will be used in meeting the Regulatory Asset Period deadline." The order further required regulated utilities to file, as part of their quarterly reports, data regarding the number of Deferred Payment Arrangements created each month, Fresh Start Recipients, funds received through existing state and federal programs, new hires related to addressing COVID-19 arrearages, the number of field collection visits, and the number of disconnections and reconnections by zip code or city.

On October 1, 2021, the Company filed its formal plan with the BPU in accordance with the September 14th Board order.

On March 15, 2022, the moratorium was lifted with exceptions, based on NJ legislation (S2356) signed into law by Governor Murphy. Consistent therewith, for residential customers who have applied to the State for utility assistance, New Jersey American Water will not discontinue service to customers with known pending applications, or who have completed their application within 60 days from its submission until the date after a decision of eligibility has been made on the completed application by the State agency. This termination protection applies only if the customer has submitted their application to the State agency before June 15, 2022.

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¹ L. 2021, c.103, https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/PL21/103_.HTM

II. Costs Incurred and Savings Realized

The Company has incurred and recorded as a regulatory asset an amount totaling \$17,925,761 as of June 30, 2022, associated with the COVID-19 public health emergency. The amount includes the following:

a) Reconnection and Late Fees

The lost revenue associated with reconnection fees during the moratorium period was calculated by multiplying the number of reconnections that were performed during the period by the \$28 reconnection fee. Since NJAWC began waiving the reconnection fee, it reconnected 64 customers. NJAWC has foregone the collection of \$1,792 in reconnection fees.

The lost revenue associated with the foregone late charges that were not billed was calculated based on the Company's late fee policy as it would have been applied to past due invoices during the moratorium period. During the moratorium period of March 2020 through the end of the reporting period, NJAWC and EDC have foregone the collection of \$1,288,431 and \$3,937 in late fees, respectively, for a total of \$1,292,368.

b) <u>Uncollectible Expense</u>

The incremental uncollectible expense was calculated by first taking the actual uncollectible expense for the public health emergency period, March 2020 to the end of the reporting period, and comparing it to the last authorized uncollectible expense for the same time period, resulting in the deferral of \$14,223,164 and \$110,368 for NJAWC and EDC, respectively, for a total of \$14,333,532. This is a decrease from the March 2022 total of \$17,659,795.

c) Additional Debt Carrying Costs

In March 2020, American Water Capital Corporation ("AWCC") secured a \$750 million term loan facility and borrowed \$500 million under the loan to ensure adequate liquidity to American Water operating subsidiaries. The associated interest related to the portion of the term loan provided to the Company and deferred as a regulatory asset in total is \$1,343,274 as of March 2021 when the term loan was paid off and deferral ceased. NJAWC reflects \$1,332,930 and EDC reflects \$10,344 of the total balance.

d) Other Additional Costs

The Company has created a specific tracking number in order to capture certain Company and Service Company increased costs related to COVID-19, such as facility preparedness, PPE, sanitizers, signage, rental equipment, etc. The costs associated with these other additional costs for NJAWC, and EDC are \$2,362,043 and \$2,661, respectively, for a total of \$2,364,704. With the Company's workforce now reintegrated, the Company has returned to pre-pandemic operations. Therefore, the Company has not recognized incremental costs as part of the deferral beyond February 1, 2022.

e) Costs Savings

The Company has identified cost savings related to travel and conferences for both Company direct charges and for Service Company charges related to travel and conferences that would have been allocated to the Company. For the period March 2020 through the end of the reporting period, the Company has calculated savings of \$1,409,909. Of these savings, 99.38% pertain to NJAWC with the remaining 0.62% to EDC. With the Company's workforce now reintegrated, the Company has returned to pre-pandemic operations. Therefore, the Company has not recognized incremental costs as part of the deferral beyond February 1, 2022.

III. Revenue Demand

Beginning April 2020, the Company began experiencing a decrease in non-residential water usage as mitigation measures were put in place, including the closure of businesses and schools, to stop the spread of COVID-19. At the same time, the Company experienced an increase in residential water usage as a result of the stay-at-home and work-from-home mandates. The increase in residential usage partially offset the decrease in non-residential usage in April 2020 and May 2020. Beginning in late June 2020 and early July 2020, as some businesses began to re-open, the Company experienced an increase in non-residential water usage. During the first quarter of 2022, non-residential usage continued toward recovery to pre-pandemic levels while residential usage has trended toward normal usage patterns.

IV. <u>Additional Quarterly Reporting Requirements – Per September 14, 2021 Board Order</u>

a) Deferred Payment Arrangements (DPAs)

The Company provides the number of DPAs created each month to the BPU as required on the Monthly Data reports, which are posted to the BPU's website. The monthly numbers of new DPAs accepted for the reporting period are reported in the table below:

Month Ended	# Of New DPAs			
	Accepted			
4/30/2022	2,338			
5/31/2022	3,300			
6/30/2022	2,357			

b) Number of Fresh Start Recipients

The Fresh Start Program is not applicable to the Company or available to its customers.

c) Funds Received Through Existing State and Federal Programs

For the reporting period, the Company received a total of \$1,156,036 in funding from various municipal and county programs: the Mercer County Board of Social Services (\$1,385), the Monmouth County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) (\$40,211), the Camden County RECOVERS Rental Assistance Grant (\$13,513), and the City of Plainfield (\$1,100,927), which were applied to customer accounts. The Company continues to work with the BPU and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs ("DCA")

to implement the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program ("LIHWAP"). In addition, the Company continues to work with state, county, and municipal authorities where eligible customers have applied for assistance programs to help with utility arrearages.

d) New Hires Related to Addressing COVID-19 Arrearages

For the reporting period, the Company has not hired any new employees related to collection of its customer arrearages.

e) Number of Field Collection Visits

For the reporting period, the Company has not performed field visits related to collection of its customer arrearages. The Company has been promoting its H2O program and payment assistance programs and will continue to do so.

f) Number of Disconnections and Reconnection by Zip Code or City

For the reporting period, the Company has processed disconnections for non-payment with its residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Effective October 2021, the Company started reporting this data on its monthly reporting to the BPU. The Company has attached to this report the total breakdown of the disconnections and reconnections by zip code associated with residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

V. Unanticipated Impacts

The Company continues to track and identify the financial impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency that the Company incurs in order to continue to provide safe, reliable, and adequate water and wastewaterservice to its customers. The Company believes that the full scope of incremental COVID-19 costs cannot be known with complete certainty at this time; it continues to monitor the continued impacts of COVID-19 on its customers and may update its deferral as more data and information become available.

² The Company began receiving LIHWAP payment on July 15, 2022, which will be reported in the next quarterly report.

Period: April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022

Period: April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022			Disconnections				
City	Zip Code	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Residential	Commercial	Industrial
Blank Cranford	Blank 07016	1 20	0 2	0	2 16	0	0
Fanwood	07010	6	0	0	15	3	0
Garwood	07023	4	2	0	4	1	0
Kenilworth	07033	8	3	1	26	0	1
Linden	07036	99	4	6	100	7	2
Maplewood	07040	19	0	0	8	0	0
Millburn	07040	5	4	0	119	18	0
	07052	41	9	0	26	3	0
West Orange	07052	11	0	0	37	0	0
Warren North Plainfield	07060	47	5	0	62	4	0
North Plainfield	07062	5	0	0	16	0	0
North Plainfield	07062	6	0	0	9	0	0
Clark	07066	13	2	0	18	1	0
	07069	6	0	0	14	2	0
Watchung Scotch Plains	07009	26	1	0	23	0	0
Short Hills		7	1	0	6	0	0
South Plainfield	07078 07080	24	0	0	18	0	2
	07080	27	0	3		2	2
Springfield Union	07081	127	3	0	63	1	0
Vauxhall	07088	10	0	0	19	0	0
Westfield	07088	14	0	0	14	0	0
Mountainside	07090	4	0	0	185	96	0
	07111	343	191	0	62	39	0
Irvington Roselle	07203	35	3	1	23	1	1
Roselle Park	07204	15	2	0	10	0	0
Hillside	07204	63	3	0	65	2	0
Little Falls	07424	40	3	0	9	1	0
Middletown	07701	11	1	0	8	1	0
Shrewsbury	07702	7	0	0	6	0	0
Fair Haven	07704	14	0	0	16	0	1
Allenhurst	07711	6	1	3		5	0
Asbury Park	07712	108	9	0	66	5	0
Atlantic Highlands	07716	7	0	0	6	0	0
Belford	07718	10	1	0	8	0	0
Bradley Beach	07720	10	1	0	18	1	0
Deal	07723	12	1	0	9	2	0
Eatontown	07724	59	5	0	54	3	0
Farmingdale	07727	4	0	0	5	0	0
Freehold	07728	4	0	0	7	0	0
Hazlet	07730	24	0	0	44	1	0
Howell	07731	33	1	0	22	1	0
Highlands	07732	14	1	0	11	0	0
Holmdel	07733	13	0	0	12	0	0
Hazlet Township	07734	5	2	0	28	2	0
Union Beach	07735	34	0	0		0	0
Leonardo	07737	4	0	0		0	0
Lincroft	07738	12	2	0	8	0	0
Little Silver	07739	3	0	0	47	1	0
Long Branch	07740	171	4	0	113	2	0
Aberdeen	07747	14	0	0	14	0	0
Middletown	07748	59	1	0	36	0	0
Monmouth Beach	07750	5	0	0	5	0	0
Navesink	07752	1	0	0	54	2	0
Neptune	07753	133	5	1	96	3	1
Oakhurst	07755	19	0	0	11	1	0
Ocean Grove	07756	3	1	0	7	0	0
Oceanport	07757	1	3	0	3	0	0
Port Monmouth	07758	10	1	0	8	1	0
Rumson	07760	17	0	0	14	0	0
West Long Branch	07764	15	0	0	15	0	0
Belvidere	07823	3	0	0	1	0	0
Oxford	07863	3	0	0	2	0	0
	- · · •	1			1		

Period: April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022

Period: April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022		Disconnections					
City	Zip Code	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Residential	Commercial	Industrial
Port Murray	07865	1	0	0	0	0	0
SUCCASUNNA	07876	0	0	0	11	0	0
Washington	07882	28	0	0	15	1	0
Summit	07901	39	12	0	36	14	0
Basking Ridge	07920	21	4	0	12	6	0
Bedminster	07921	21	7	0	12	1	0
Berkeley Heights	07922	15	0	0	13	0	0
Bernardsville	07924	12	0	0	9	0	0
Brookside	07926	2	0	0	0	1	0
Chatham	07928	8	0	0	5	0	0
Chester	07930	3	1	0	2	0	0
Far Hills	07931	1	0	0	1	0	0
Florham Park	07932	0	2	0	0	0	0
Gillette	07933	5	1	0	5	1	0
Gladstone	07934	1	0	0	3	0	0
Liberty Corner	07938	1	0	0	1	0	0
MENDHAM	07945	4	0	0	2	0	0
Millington	07946	6	0	0	6	0	0
Murray Hill	07974	19	0	0	10	0	0
Tewksbury Township	07979	1	0	0	22	0	0
Stirling	07980	8	1	0	5	1	0
Cherry Hill	08002	30	0	0	29	1	0
Cherry Hill	08003	33	1	0	21	0	0
Barrington	08007	6	0	0	17	0	0
Beverly	08010	25	1	0	18	1	0
Blackwood	08012	10	0	0	36	1	0
GLOUCESTER	08021	66	1	0	43	0	0
MANSFIELD	08022	6	0	0	7	0	0
Gibbsboro	08026	3	1	0	2	1	0
Elk Township	08028	1	0	0	6	0	0
Glendora	08029	26	0	0	16	0	0
Bellmawr	08031	13	0	0	8	0	0
Haddonfield	08033	4	3	0	14	2	0
Cherry Hill	08034	28	2	0	15	2	0
Haddon Heights	08035	6	0	0	5	0	0
Hainesport Township	08036	15	0	0	28	2	0
Kirkwood	08043	43	0	0	31	0	0
Lawnside	08045	21	1	0	28	1	0
Lumberton Township	08048	30	0	0	8	0	0
Magnolia	08049	14	1	0	19	1	0
Maple Shade	08052	1	0	0	1	0	0
Mount Laurel	08054	5	0	0	3	0	0
MOUNT EPHRAIM	08059	30	0	0	42	0	0
Eastampton Township	08060	14	1	0	12	1	0
Mullica Hill	08062	8	0	0	12	1	0
Palmyra	08065	7	0	0	5	0	0
Pedricktown	08067	2	0	0	4	0	0
Pemberton	08068	0	0	0	26	1	0
Carneys Point	08069	77	1	0	64	0	0
Delanco	08075	16	1	0	40	2	0
Cinnaminson	08077	15	1	0	29	0	0
Runnemede	08078	15	3	0	11	2	0
GLOUCESTER	08083	15	0	0	13	0	0
Stratford	08084	13	0	0	9	0	0
Swedesboro	08085	0	0	0	4	0	0
Vincentown	08088	7	0	0	138	10	0
Camden	08105	202	15	0	93	9	0
Audubon	08106	2	0	0	4	1	0
Oaklyn	08107	13	2	0	11	2	0
Pennsauken	08109	3	0	0	15	2	0
Camden	08110	39	4	0	23	2	0
Absecon	08201	11	1	0	53	3	0
Galloway	08205	150	2	0	83	1	0

New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc. Quarterly Report of COVID-19 Regulatory Asset Section IV. (f)

Period: April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022

City	Zin Codo	Residential	Disconnections Commercial	Industrial	Residential	Reconnections Commercial	Industrial
Cape May Court House	Zip Code 08210	16	0	0	Residential 6	Commercial 0	muusman
•		0	1	0	1	1	
Cologne	08213 08215	2	0	0	8	0	
Galloway	08213	14	0	0	23	0	
Linwood				0			
Northfield	08225	43	0	-	58	9	
Ocean City	08226	60	6	0	83	4	
Egg Harbor Township	08232	118	3	0	95	5	
Egg Harbor Township	08234	76	2	0	53	0	
Pomona	08240	3	0	0	2	0	
Rio Grande	08242	1	0	0	11	0	
Somers Point	08244	8	0	0	6	0	
Whitesboro	08252	7	0	0	10	0	
MONTGOMERY	08502	2	0	0	3	0	
Cranbury	08512	4	1	0	2	0	
Cream Ridge	08514	1	0	0	3	0	
Kingston	08528	3	0	0	0	0	
New Egypt	08533	8	1	0	21	2	
Plainsboro	08536	24	5	0	9	1	
Princeton	08540	29	3	0	11	0	
Princeton	08542	3	0	0	13	0	
Princeton Junction	08550	17	2	0	1	0	
MONTGOMERY	08558	1	0	0	29	0	
Lawrence Township	08648	34	1	0	123	1	
Lakewood	08701	219	3	0	121	1	
Lavallette	08735	13	1	0	7	1	
Lavanette Brick	08738	13	0	0	7	0	
		8	0	0	6	0	
Mantoloking	08739 08742	4	0	0	1	0	
Bay Head		3	0	0	22	0	
Ortley Beach	08751	7	0	0			
Bound Brook	08805				19	0	
Bridgewater 	08807	26	1	0	23	0	
Dunellen	08812	23	1	0	14	0	
Edison	08820	3	0	0	8	0	
Flemington	08822	12	0	0	10	0	
Frenchtown	08825	2	0	0	1	0	
Jamesburg	08831	30	2	0	33	3	
Manville	08835	35	1	0	8	0	
Martinsville	08836	3	0	0	9	0	
Hillsborough Twp	08844	15	0	0	13	0	
Middlesex	08846	16	2	0	8	0	
MONTGOMERY	08853	0	0	0	5	0	
Piscataway	08854	54	0	1	45	0	
RARITAN	08869	7	0	0	3	0	
Franklin Township	08873	5	0	0	10	1	
Branchburg	08876	22	1	0	18	0	
South Bound Brook	08880	14	0	0	6	0	
Stewartsville	08886	0	0	0	0	0	
Total		4103	385	16	4056	315	

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DOCKET NO. AO20060471

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IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' RESPONSE TO **THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

DOCKET NO. AO20060471

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