



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES)))))))	ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR SERVICE BPU DOCKET NO. WR14010019
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Parties of Record:

Stephen B. Genzer, Esq., on behalf of Aqua New Jersey, Inc., Petitioner
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On January 16, 2014, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, N.J.A.C. 14:9-10.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.1 et seq., Aqua New Jersey, Inc. (“Aqua”, “Company” or “Petitioner”), a public utility of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) filed a petition seeking to increase its rates for water service amounting to approximately \$3,899,014 or 11.16% above the annual revenues. The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on February 21, 2014¹. The Petitioner does not seek interim rate relief pending final determination on the petition.

The Company is engaged in the business of collecting, treating and distributing water for retail service to approximately 51,300 customers². The Company’s customers are located in portions of the Town of Phillipsburg, Town of Pohatcong, Lapatcong Township, Greenwich Township, and Harmony Township in Warren County; Bearbrook Village in Fredon Township and portions of Hardyston and Vernon Townships in Sussex County; Lebanon Township, a portion of Holland Township, the Borough of Califon and a portion of Bloomsbury in Hunterdon County; a portion of Hamilton Square, a portion of Hamilton Township, a portion of Robbinsville Township, Lawrence Township and Lawrenceville Township in Mercer County; Berkeley Township in

¹ On January 23, 2014, the Company filed a letter with the Board stating that it will not implement rates on an interim basis prior to the effective date of the Board’s suspension Order resulting from the February 19, 2014, agenda meeting.

² The Company is also engaged in the wastewater collection, treatment and transmission business and currently serves 5,600 wastewater customers. Rates for wastewater service are not the subject of this Petition.

Ocean County; a portion of Chesterfield Township and North Hanover Township in Burlington County; Upper Freehold Township and Howell Township in Monmouth County; a portion of Gloucester Township, a portion of Blackwood in Gloucester Township and a portion of Laurel Springs in Camden County and Woolwich Township in Gloucester County.

According to the petition, the rate increase is driven by several factors including, but not limited to, continuing increases in operating expenses, and the significant capital expenditures required for the Company to continue to provide safe, adequate and proper service and to comply with state and federal regulations. The additional revenues being requested are to enable the Petitioner to maintain a satisfactory credit position, preserve its financial integrity, permit proper maintenance and improvement of the utility plant required to furnish safe, adequate and proper service, encourage continued good management and provide an incentive for efficiency, prevent confiscation or diminution of its property, and to earn a reasonable return upon the fair value of its property used and useful in the public service.

It appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until June 21, 2014, unless the Board prior to that date, makes a determination disposing of the petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) Petitioner shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition by the Office of Administrative Law, file with this Board and with the Office of Administrative Law (33 Washington Street, Newark N.J. 07102) proof of compliance with the Notice provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12 (b) and (c), which Notice shall include a statement that any relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers on any rate or schedule as the Board may determine; and
- (3) Petitioner shall serve copies of this Order upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Division of Rate Counsel (140 East Front Street, 4th Floor, Post Office Box 003, Trenton, N.J. 08625), the clerk of each affected municipality, the clerk of the Boards of Chosen Freeholders of each affected county, and where appropriate, the executive officer of each affected county within its service area. Service of the petition, notice of hearings and this Order may be made simultaneously. Proof of service of this Order shall be filed with the Board within fifteen (15) days of the date of this Order.

This Order shall be effective on March 1, 2014.

DATED: 2/19/14

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



DIANNE SOLOMON
PRESIDENT



JEANNE M. FOX
COMMISSIONER


JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER


MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


KRISTI IZZO
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public
Utilities


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FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE
AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES
BPU DOCKET NO. WR14010019

SERVICE LIST

Stephen B. Genzer, Esq.
Saul Ewing LLP
One Riverfront Plaza, Suite 1520
Newark, NJ 07102

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director
Debra Robinson, Esq.
Susan McClure, Esq.
Christine Juarez, Esq.
Division of Rate Counsel
140 East Front Street, 4th Floor
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, N.J. 08625-0003

Geoffrey Gersten, DAG
Alex Moreau, DAG
David Wand, DAG
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
Post Office Box 45029
Newark, NJ 07101-45029

Maria L. Moran, Director
Michael Kammer, Bureau Chief
Matthew Koczur, Administrative Analyst II
Ed Hiott, Senior Utility Management Analyst
State of New Jersey
Board of Public Utilities
Division of Water
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350