

September 29, 2014 (Via Federal Express)

REC'D

Honorable Kristi Izzo Secretary of the Board New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 9th Floor, PO Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

NI 980

NJ BPU CASE MANAGEMENT

Re:

In the Matter of the Application of Middlesex Water Company For Authority to Borrow up to \$5.0 million and to Issue Evidences of Indebtedness Pursuant to the Environmental Infrastructure Trust

Financing Program.

BPU Docket No.: WF1410 1084

ANT DET 1 PM 3 16

Dear Secretary Izzo:

Enclosed herewith for filing please find the original and eleven (11) copies of Middlesex Water Company's Petition in the above-referenced matter.

This case may be summarized as a Petition for approval, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-7 and 48:3-9 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.9, to borrow up to \$5.0 million from the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (the "Trust") and from the State of New Jersey (the "State") and to secure said amount by issuing and delivering to the Trust and the State the Company's Bonds and/or other evidences of indebtedness.

Kindly stamp "filed" on the extra copy of the Petition enclosed herewith and please return it to us in the enclosed, stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Very truly yours,

gay Looper

Legal

KPA M.Kammer B. Wolciak

M. Beyer WATER (2) M. MERAN Jay L. Kooper

Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary

JLK:rk Enclosures

cc: Service List (w/enclosures via electronic mail)

Middlesex Water Company - BPU Docket No. WF14____

Application for Authority to Borrow up to \$5.0 Million and to Issue Evidences of Indebtedness Pursuant to the Environmental Infrastructure Trust Financing Program ~ Service List ~

Middlesex Water Company

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY FOR
AUTHORITY TO BORROW UP TO
\$5.0 MILLION AND TO ISSUE EVIDENCES
OF INDEBTEDNESS PURSUANT TO THE
ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE
TRUST FINANCING PROGRAM



TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

PETITION

: Docket No. WF1410

Petitioner, MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY, (hereinafter referred to as "Petitioner", "Middlesex", or the "Company") a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey with its principal office located at 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, New Jersey 08830, states that:

- 1. Middlesex is a duly organized and existing public utility of the State of New Jersey, subject to the jurisdiction of the Board. The Company is engaged in the business of collecting, treating and distributing water for service on a retail basis to customers in South Plainfield, Metuchen, Carteret, Woodbridge, Edison, South Amboy, portions of Clark, portions of the Borough of Sayreville, and portions of Downe Township in Cumberland County; and on a contract basis, to the Township of Edison, the Borough of Highland Park, the Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority, the City of Rahway, and Marlboro Township; and, on a special contractual basis for water treatment and pumping services, to the Township of East Brunswick. The Company owns and operates water treatment, supply, transmission and distribution systems for these purposes. The Company also owns subsidiaries that provide utility and utility-related services.
- 2. In summary, as more specifically set forth below, the Company seeks Board approval, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3:7 and 48:3-9 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.9, to borrow up to \$5.0 million (the "Loans") from the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust, a public body corporate and politic constituting an instrumentality of the State of New Jersey (the "Trust"), and from the State of New Jersey, acting by and through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (the "State"), and to secure the Loans by issuing and delivering to

the Trust and the State the Company's First Mortgage Bonds (the "Company's Bonds") and/or other evidences of indebtedness in like amount.

- 3. More specifically, Environmental Infrastructure Trust Fund Bonds (the "Trust's Bonds") will be sold and other State monies will be used to create a fund available for loans to qualified borrowers, all pursuant to the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Financing Program according to the laws and regulations governing such transactions. Loans to various entities, including the Loans to the Company, will be made from the loan fund. The Trust's Bonds will be sold through one or more underwriters with a fixed rate of interest, under circumstances where competitive conditions will be maintained throughout. Therefore, Petitioner requests that the Board grant the authority requested herein without the necessity of an additional Order as to pricing.
- 4. The structure of the Loans will be such that approximately one-quarter of the Loans will be from the Trust at an interest rate equal to the rate on the Trust's Bonds. The other approximately three-quarters of the Loans will be from the State, through the Department of Environmental Protection, without interest. In effect, therefore, the rate of interest on the Company's Bonds will be approximately one-quarter of the interest rate of the Trust's Bonds since the Loans' rate will be a blend of the zero rate of interest on the loan from the State and the actual rate of interest on the Trust's Bonds.
- 5. To evidence and secure the Loans to the Company by the Trust and the State, the Company proposes to execute and deliver to the Trust and the State the Company's Bonds and/or other evidences of indebtedness, in a principal amount equal to the amount of the Loans, having an interest rate, as described above, and maturity dates and redemption provisions designed to service the Trust's Bonds and the State's loan. It is anticipated that such Company Bonds are to be designated "Series VV Bonds" and "Series WW Bonds," due 2035, although the designations "Series VV Bonds" and "Series WW Bonds" in this Petition are intended to reflect the one or more series of Bonds or other evidences of indebtedness to be issued in connection with the Loans.
- 6. The Company expects that interest on the Trust's Bonds will be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. As a result of this exemption, the zero rate of interest on the State loan and the favorable bond rating anticipated for the Trust's Bonds, the interest rate on the Company

Bonds, issued as security for the Loans, will be substantially less than the interest rate the Company otherwise would pay to investors on conventional debt financing.

- 7. The foregoing description of the procedures related to the Loans, documents to be provided to the Trust and the State, and approvals required for the transaction, are based on the Company's understanding of the practices and procedures in place at the time of filing this Petition. The foregoing is subject to change if such procedures are changed. Therefore, the Company may be required to amend the description of the process, the approvals required for the Loans, or other aspects of this Petition. The Company will notify the Board and Board Staff if and when any such modifications will be appropriate.
- 8. The proceeds of the Loans will be used by the Company to finance a project of rehabilitating its cast-iron transmission and distribution mains, referred to as "Cleaning and Lining", under the Company's continuing RENEW program. The Cleaning and Lining project is an annual program and the proceeds of the Loans will be used for the project work for the calendar year 2015.
- 9. Loans from the Trust are awarded annually, although proceeds from the loans may be disbursed over a period of up to three years. Because the Trust acts only once each year, adherence to the Trust's timetable is of critical importance. Attached hereto, as Exhibit H, is a proposed timetable for this transaction which will meet the Trust's requirements. The loan amounts will not be disbursed at the time of the Loans but rather are to be distributed to the Company as needed to meet expenditures over the project's construction life.
- 10. Therefore, the Company specifically petitions the Board at this time for approval and authority:
- a. To make, execute and deliver, if necessary, one or more Supplemental Indentures of Mortgage to US Bank National Association, as Trustee, for the purpose, among other things, of describing the terms of the First Mortgage Bonds, Series VV and Series WW, of the Company. The Supplemental Indenture(s) will, among other things, create and provide for the issuance of the Series VV Bonds and Series WW Bonds under an Indenture of Mortgage, dated April 1, 1927, between the Company and United Counties Trust Company, as Trustee; and under a Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of October 1, 1939; a Third Supplemental Indenture, dated as of April 1, 1946; a Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 1, 1955; a Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 1959; a Seventh

Supplemental Indenture, dated as of January 15, 1963; an Eighth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of July 1, 1964; a Ninth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of June 1, 1965; a Tenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 1, 1968; an Eleventh Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 1968; a Twelfth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 1970; a Thirteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 1, 1972; a Fourteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of April 1, 1979; a Fifteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of April 1, 1983; a Sixteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 1, 1988; a Seventeenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of June 15, 1991; an Eighteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of September 1, 1993; a Nineteenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of September 1, 1993; a Twentieth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of January 1, 1994; a Twenty-First Supplemental Indenture dated as of January 1, 1994; a Twenty-Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of March 1, 1998; a Twenty-Third Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 1998; a Twenty-Fourth Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 1998; a Twenty-Fifth Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 1999; a Twenty-Sixth Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 1999; a Twenty-Seventh Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 2001; a Twenty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 2001; a Twenty-Ninth Supplemental Indenture dated as of January 15, 2002; a Thirtieth Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 2004; a Thirty-First Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 2004; a Thirty-Second Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 2006; a Thirty-Third Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 2006; a Thirty-Fourth Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 2007; a Thirty-Fifth Supplemental Indenture dated as of October 15, 2007; a Thirty-Sixth Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 1, 2008; a Thirty-Seventh Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 1, 2008; a Thirty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture dated as of December 1, 2010; a Thirty-Ninth Supplemental Indenture dated as of December 1, 2010; a Fortieth Supplemental Indenture dated as of May 1, 2012; a Forty-First Supplemental Indenture dated as of May 1. 2012; a Forty-Second Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 1, 2012; a Forty-Third Supplemental Indenture dated November 1, 2012; a Forty-Fourth Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 1, 2012; a Forty-Fifth Supplemental Indenture dated as of May 1, 2013; a Forty- Sixth Supplemental Indenture dated as of May 1, 2013; a Forty-Seventh Supplemental Indenture dated as of May 1, 2014; and a Forty-Eighth Supplemental Indenture dated as of May 1, 2014; or

To make such guarantee or guarantees as are required by the State and the Trust to secure the Loans; and

- b. To borrow up to \$5.0 million from, and make, execute and deliver to, the Trust and the State one or more Loan Agreements therefor and to make, execute and deliver to the Trust and the State documents required in connection therewith; and
- c. To issue, if necessary, up to \$5.0 million principal amount of Series VV and Series WW Bonds of the Company in connection with such borrowings. Such series of bonds are jointly to bear interest at a rate based upon approximately one-quarter of the interest rate for the Trust's Bonds and are to be secured equally and ratably with the Company's outstanding bonds by the aforesaid Indenture of Mortgage as supplemented.
- 11. As of June 30, 2014, Middlesex had outstanding 16,054,794 shares of Common Stock of 40,000,000 shares authorized by its Restated Certificate of Incorporation. As of June 30, 2014, it had 23,374 shares of Preferred Stock in four series outstanding of 125,973 authorized by its Restated Certificate of Incorporation. The book value of the Company's Common Stock as of June 30, 2014 was \$11.76 per share. The closing market price as of June 30, 2014 was \$21.18 per share.
- 12. As of June 30, 2014, the capital stock of the Company is shown on Exhibit C annexed hereto. The preferences and other characteristics of the Preferred Stock are set forth in Exhibit F of the Petition filed with the Board in Docket No. WF-97030172, which is incorporated by reference herein. Dividends paid upon the capital stock of the Company are shown on Exhibit D annexed hereto.
- 13. The principal amount of the Company's long-term indebtedness is set forth in Exhibit C annexed hereto. The Company had no other indebtedness at June 30, 2014 except as set forth in Exhibit A annexed hereto.
- 14. No franchise or right is proposed to be capitalized directly or indirectly in connection with the proposed transaction.
- 15. Except for the relief sought in this Petition, no other regulatory approvals are necessary in order to accomplish the proposed transaction, except approval of the Trust and any approvals required in connection with that approval. However, certain compliance or administrative filings may be required by the federal securities laws and by the securities laws of certain of the states in which the bonds are sold.

- 16. The Company's Common Stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. The Company's current transfer agent is Registrar and Transfer Company, headquartered in Cranford New Jersey. Effective October 10, 2014, the Company's transfer agent will be Broadridge Corporate Issuer Solutions, Inc., headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 17. Submitted herewith and made a part of this Petition are the following exhibits (including those exhibits previously referenced herein):
 - Exhibit A Balance Sheet at June 30, 2014.
 - Exhibit B Statement of Income
 Twelve months ended June 30, 2014.
 - Exhibit C Statement of Capital Stock and Long-term Debt, June 30, 2014.
 - Exhibit D Statement of Cash Flows
 Twelve months ended June 30, 2014.
 - Exhibit E Interest Charged to Income Upon Each Kind of Indebtedness and Rate Thereon,
 Twelve months ended June 30, 2014.
 - Exhibit F Forms of Resolutions of the Company's Board of Directors.
 - Exhibit G Proposed Form of Order.
 - Exhibit H Proposed Timetable.
 (Trust Financing Program Schedule.)
 - Exhibit I Project Descriptions.
 - 18. All correspondence in the case should be addressed to:

Jay L. Kooper Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary Middlesex Water Company 1500 Ronson Road Iselin, New Jersey 08830 WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that the Board approve and authorize Petitioner to:

- a. Make, execute and deliver one or more Supplemental Indentures of Mortgage to US Bank National Association, as Successor Trustee;
- b. Borrow up to \$5.0 million from, and make, execute and deliver to the Trust and the State Loan Agreements therefor and to make, execute and deliver to the Trust and the State documents required in connection therewith;
- c. Issue and sell up to \$5.0 million principal amount of First Mortgage Bonds in connection with such borrowings in accordance with the terms herein before set forth; and
 - d. Obtain such other relief as the Board determines is just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY

Jay L. Kooper

Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary

Dated: September 29, 2014