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P.O. Box 400, Iselin, NJ 08830

Tel. (800) 782-1116 Fax (908) 750-5981

Via Federal Express
October 21, 2015

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

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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
MAIL ROOM

WR15101200

Re: In the Matter of Pinelands Water Company
For Approval of an Increase in its Rates for
Water Service and Other Tariff Changes

Dear Secretary Asbury:

Enclosed herewith for filing please find the original and ten (10) copies of Pinelands Water Company's Petition and prepared Testimony in the above-referenced matter.

Copies of this Petition have this day been served, via Federal Express, upon the Department of Law and Public Safety and upon the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel and, by first class mail, upon the Clerk of Southampton Township and the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Burlington County, which includes the Petitioner's service territory.

The case may be summarized as a petition for approval of an increase in rates seeking an overall increase of approximately \$306,366 or 48.49%.

In addition, the Petitioner seeks approval, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11, of changes to Petitioner's Tariff.

In the Petition, the Company also notifies the Board that it will implement the proposed rates on July 18, 2016 if the Board has suspended the effective date of the new rates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, but has not finally determined a just and reasonable tariff prior to that date.

Kindly stamp "filed" on the extra copy of the Petition enclosed herewith and return it to us.

Very truly yours,
Jay Kooper
Jay L. Kooper, Esq.
General Counsel

CMS
LEGAL
DAG
RPA
M. MORAN
M. KAMMER
J. FORD
WATER(4)

JLK:rk
Enclosures
cc: Service List B

**Pinelands Water Company
BPU Docket No.
2015 Rate Increase**

~ Service List B ~

Clerk, Township of Southampton
5 Retreat Road
Southampton, NJ 08088

Clerk, Burlington County
Board of Chosen Freeholders
49 Rancocas Road
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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In the Matter of PINELANDS WATER : PETITION
COMPANY For Approval of An :
Increase in its Rates for Water Service, :
and Other Tariff Changes : Docket No. WR1510____
:

TO: THE HONORABLE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Petitioner, Pinelands Water Company (hereinafter referred to as "Petitioner",
"Pinelands Water" or the "Company") respectfully submits this Petition pursuant to
N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11 and 14:1-5.12; and shows that:

FIRST COUNT
FOR AN INCREASE IN RATES

1. Pinelands Water is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of
the State of New Jersey, with its principal offices located at 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin,
New Jersey 08830. Communications relating to this Petition should be sent to Jay L.
Koooper, Esq., 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, New Jersey 08830, and Stephen B. Genzer,
Esq., Saul Ewing LLP, One Riverfront Plaza, Newark, New Jersey 07102-5490, and
copies thereof should also be sent to Mr. A. Bruce O'Connor, Vice President, Pinelands
Water Company, 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, New Jersey 08830.

2. Pinelands Water 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 Southampton Township, Burlington County. The Company owns and

operates water treatment and supply systems for these purposes. Pinelands Water is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Middlesex Water Company (“Middlesex”), a New Jersey corporation and public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Board. This Petition, however, is being filed on a “stand-alone” basis, that is, for the Pinelands Water service area.

3. By this Petition, the Company seeks approval of an increase in rates, and approval of other tariff changes, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12 and other related provisions of statutes and regulations.

4. Expense increases have occurred since the rates were last set in 2013. Such expense increases, including those in the costs of power, chemicals, maintenance, security, taxes, insurance, labor and employee benefits have occurred or will shortly do so. These expense increases, together with continuing decreases in water consumption and the anticipated loss of cell tower lease revenues, have caused the Petitioner’s present rates for water service to be inadequate. The Company is also engaged in a capital improvement program to maintain and improve safe, adequate and proper service to its customers. Such capital improvements and needed expense increases have improved the quality of service, but have impacted earnings.

5. Petitioner’s present rates for water service are inadequate to meet such expenses, support capital improvement programs and provide Petitioner with a reasonable return on its investment in the utility plant. Without the increase, Petitioner’s financial condition could be jeopardized, as would its ability to continue to render safe, adequate and proper service to the public.

6. The additional revenues requested are further required to enable Petitioner to preserve its financial integrity, to permit proper maintenance, development and improvement of the utility plant required to furnish safe, adequate and proper service and to earn a reasonable return upon the fair value of its property used and useful in the public service.

7. Petitioner notifies the Board that, for the reasons stated above, it seeks approval to increase its rates for water service, as provided in Exhibit A attached hereto, for service rendered on and after November 23, 2015, which date is at least 30 days after the filing of this Petition. Petitioner also notifies the Board that it will implement the proposed rates on July 25, 2016, on an interim basis, pursuant to law if the Board has suspended the effective date of the new rates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 but not finally determined a just and reasonable tariff prior to that date.

8. Petitioner's rates are being requested to be increased for the purpose of producing additional annual revenues of \$306,366 or 48.49% above the adjusted annual level of revenues for the test year ending March 31, 2016.

9. Notice of this filing, a copy of this Petition, and all other annexed exhibits are being served upon the municipal clerk in Southampton Township and the clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Burlington County, respectively the municipality and county in which the Petitioner provides service, and, in duplicate, upon the Department of Law and Public Safety and the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel. Notice of the filing and a statement of its effect will be furnished to Petitioner's customers by

publication in newspapers published and circulated in Petitioner's service area pursuant to the rules of the Board.

10. Proof of service of the notices referred to herein will be filed with the Board by Petitioner in accordance with the Board's regulations.

11. Annexed hereto and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein are the following exhibits:

Exhibit A - Proposed Changed Tariff Sheets including Rate Schedules and Proof of Revenues.

Exhibit B - Present Tariff Sheets Corresponding to Exhibit A.

Exhibit C - Comparative Balance Sheets - December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

Exhibit D - Comparative Statements of Income for the Twelve Months ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

Exhibit E - Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2015.

Exhibit F - Pro Forma Statement of Income and Rate of Return for the Twelve Months ending March 31, 2016 at Present and Proposed Rates.

Exhibit G - Payments or Accruals to Affiliated Companies.

Exhibit H - Form of Notice to be given of this filing and of Public Hearing.

Exhibit I - Affidavit of A. Bruce O'Connor.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner respectfully requests that the proposed increase in rates be approved pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and that such other relief as is just and proper be granted by the Board.

SECOND COUNT
FOR OTHER TARIFF CHANGES

1. Petitioner repeats and realleges the allegations of the First Count and incorporates them into this Second Count as if fully set forth at length herein.
2. In this proceeding the Company proposes to make changes to its Tariff substantially as set forth in Exhibit A annexed hereto. A copy of the pages of the existing Tariff which are proposed to be changed is set forth in Exhibit B.
3. Notice of proposed Tariff changes is to be included in the notices proposed in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the First Count herein. The date on which the Company proposes to make the Tariff changes effective shall be the date on which new rates become effective as set forth in paragraph 7 of the First Count hereof unless the Board shall act earlier on any or all of these changes.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that pursuant to N.J.A.C 14:5-11, the Board approve the Tariff proposed herein and that such other relief as is just and proper be granted by the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,



JAY L. KOOPER, ESQ.
General Counsel
Pinelands Water Company
1500 Ronson Road
Iselin, New Jersey 08830

Dated: October 21, 2015
Iselin, New Jersey

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

In the Matter of PINELANDS : CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
WATER COMPANY For :
Approval of An Increase in its Rates :
for Water Service and Other :
Tariff Changes :
:

Jay L. Kooper, an Attorney at Law of New Jersey, hereby certifies the following:

On October 21, 2015 I caused to be served by first-class mail, postage prepaid, a copy of the within Petition and Exhibits and the prepared Testimony to each party on the attached Service List B, and two copies thereof via Federal Express to the Department of Law and Public Safety at its address at Division of Law, 124 Halsey Street, P.O. Box 45029, Newark, New Jersey 07101 and to the Director, Division of Rate Counsel at its address at State of New Jersey, Division of Rate Counsel, 140 East Front Street - 4th Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625.


Jay L. Kooper

Dated: October 21, 2015