



State of New Jersey DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

140 EAST FRONT STREET, 4TH FL P. O. BOX 003 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

CHRIS CHRISTIE Governor

KIM GUADAGNO Lt. Governor BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MAIL PSTEFANIE A. BRAND Director

June 8, 2016

Via Hand Delivery & First Class Mail

Irene Kim Asbury, Secretary New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor Suite 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Re: I/M/O The Petition of the Township of South Orange Village Review and Approval of a Hearing Report – Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:26-19 et. seq. BPU Docket No.: WO16040310

Dear Ms. Asbury:

Please accept for filing an original and ten (10) copies of comments filed on behalf of the Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") regarding the above-referenced matter. Enclosed is one additional copy. Please date stamp the copy as "filed" and return it to the courier. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

On August 19, 2016, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 58:26-19, the Township of South Orange Village ("South Orange") filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities seeking approval of a contract with American Water Operations and Maintenance, Inc. ("AWOM"), to operate and maintain its waster system. Rate Counsel has reviewed the petition filed by South Orange, as well as the discovery responses provided by South Orange in response to questions from Board Staff in the above-referenced matter. Based upon that review, Rate Counsel has no objection to the Board approving South Orange's contract with AWOM to operate and maintain its water system.

Quint day

Tel: (609) 984-1460 • Fax: (609) 292-2923 • Fax: (609) 292-2954 http://www.nj.gov/rpa E-Mail: njratepayer@rpa.state.nj.us Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you require any additional information, please do not besitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq. Director, Division of Rate Counsel . ⊃ By:

Susan E. McClure, Esq. Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel

SEM/ddg cc: service list via email and regular mail Irene Kim Asbury, Secretary Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Ave., 3rd Floor Suite 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625

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Steven C. Rother, Esq. Post, Polak, Goodsell, MacNeil & Strauchler, P.A. 425 Eagle Rock Ave., Ste. 200 Roseland, New Jerscy 07068-1717 UMO a Contract for the Operation and Maintenance of the South Orange Water System with American Water Operations and Maintenance, Inc. Pursuant to the New Yessey Water Supply Public-Private Commering Act, N.I.S.A. 55:26-19 et seq. BPU Docker No. WO16040310

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Nicholas, T. DeVecchis New Jersey American Water 1025 Laurel Oak Road Voorhees, New Jersey 08043 *Receives all correspondence except discovery.

**Receives all documents by e-mail only.

*Debra F. Robinson, Esq. Managing Attorney Water & Wastewater Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street 4th Floor P.O. Box 003 Trenton, New Jersey 08625

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