





State of New Jersev OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT, NO. PUC 06627-16 BPU DKT, NO. WR16040306

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A PURCHASED WATER ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.1, ET SEQ.

> Jay L. Kooper, Esq., Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary, on behalf of Middlesex Water Company, petitioner

> Christopher Psihoules, Deputy Attorney General, and Emma Yao Xiao, Deputy Attorney General, for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Christopher S. Porrino, Acting Attorney General of New Jersey, attorney)

> Debra F. Robinson, Esq., Deputy Rate Counsel, and Susan McClure, Esq., Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, on behalf of the Division of Rate Counsel (Stephanie A. Brand, Director of the Division of Rate Counsel, attorney)

Record Closed: September 6, 2016

Decided: September 7, 2016

M. Mosser

J- Kane C. Vachier

BEFORE RICHARD McGILL, ALJ:

On April 19, 2016, Middlesex Water Company ("petitioner" or the "Company") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities seeking approval of an increase in its Purchased Water Adjustment Clause ("PWAC") to recover increased purchased water costs together with deferred costs. The matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on May 2, 2016, for determination as a contested case.

Notices describing the petition and setting forth the date of the public hearing were placed in newspapers having circulation within petitioner's service territory. The public hearing concerning the Company's petition was held during the evening of July 18, 2016, at the Fords Branch at the Woodbridge Public Library. No members of the public appeared to provide comments.

Prior to the evidentiary hearing, the parties filed a Stipulation of Settlement, which resolves all issues in this case. Having reviewed the record and the settlement terms, I FIND as follows:

- The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures or the signature of their representatives.
- The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with the law.

Therefore, I **CONCLUDE** that the agreement meets the requirements of <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 1:1-19.1 and that the settlement should be approved. Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the parties comply with the terms of the settlement, and it is **FURTHER ORDERED** that the proceedings in this matter be concluded.

I hereby FILE my initial decision with the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

Sapt. 7, 2016	Muse Nepsey	
DATE	RICHARD McGILL, ALJ	
Date Received at Agency:	9/7/16	
Date Mailed to Parties:		

STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

In The Matter of the Petition of
Middlesex Water Company for
Approval of a Purchased Water
Adjustment Clause Pursuant To
N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.1 et seq.

BPU Docket No. WR16040306 OAL Docket No. PUC 06627-2016N

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

APPEARANCES:

Jay L. Kooper, Esq., Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary, on behalf of Middlesex Water Company, Petitioner

Christopher Psihoules, Deputy Attorney General, and Emma Yao Xiao, Deputy Attorney General, for the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Christopher S. Porrino, Attorney General of the State of New Jersey)

Debra F. Robinson, Esq., Deputy Rate Counsel and Susan McClure, Esq. Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, on behalf of the Division of Rate Counsel (Stefanie A. Brand, Director)

TO THE HONORABLE IRENE JONES, ALJ AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

This Stipulation of Settlement resolves all issues in BPU Docket No. WR16040306 in which Middlesex Water Company (the "Company" or "Petitioner") seeks Board approval of its Purchased Water Adjustment Clause ("PWAC") to recover increased purchased water costs, together with deferred costs, as more fully set forth in the Exhibits attached to the Petition and other materials filed herein. The Signatory Parties to this Stipulation of Settlement, which comprise the Parties that have participated in this proceeding are: the Company, the Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel"), and the Staff of the Board of Public Utilities ("Staff") (collectively the "Signatory Parties").

As a result of an analysis of Petitioner's pre-filed testimony and exhibits, extensive discovery conducted, conferences, negotiations, and a public hearing held on July 18, 2016 in Fords, New Jersey, the Signatory Parties have come to an agreement on the issues in dispute in this matter. The Signatory Parties hereto agree and stipulate as follows:

The procedural history of this matter is as follows:

On April 19, 2016, Petitioner, a public utility corporation of the State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.1 et seq., filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") seeking approval for an increase in its PWAC to recover increased purchased water costs, together with deferred costs, and associated expenses including PWAC rate case expenses, associated gross receipts and franchise taxes. The Company originally requested an increase in annual revenue of \$51,133 over pro forma present rate revenues of \$75,276,988, which represents an increase of approximately 0.07%.

The Company purchases water through two water purchase contracts: the first is for untreated water from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority ("NJWSA") and the second is for treated water from New Jersey American Water Company ("NJAW"). The Company was notified of an increase in its purchased water rate from NJAW from \$0.375 per thousand gallons to \$0.4018 per thousand gallons effective April 1, 2016 pursuant to BPU Docket No. WRI5111289. The Company has not received an increase in the purchased water rate from NJWSA in connection with this matter.

On April 29, 2016, this matter was transferred to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") as a contested case where it was assigned to Administrative Law Judge Irene Jones ("ALJ Jones"). A Pre-Hearing Conference was convened by ALJ Jones on June 6, 2016, and a Pre-Hearing Order issued on June 7, 2016. After proper notice, a public hearing was held on the

evening of July 18, 2016, at the Fords Branch of the Woodbridge Public Library, located at 211 Ford Avenue in Fords, New Jersey, with Administrative Law Judge Michael Antoniewicz ("ALJ Antoniewicz") presiding. No members of the public appeared to provide comments. Subsequently, a settlement discussion was held among the Signatory Parties on August 23, 2016 and agreements reached during this discussion result in the following stipulation:

- 1. The purchased water costs, established pursuant to Petitioner's last base rate order dated August 19, 2015 in BPU Docket No. WR15030391 amounted to \$5,701,187 as appears on the Exhibit A, attached and made a part of this Stipulation. The new base cost of purchased water as agreed to by the Signatory Parties is \$5,725,934, resulting in an increase in purchased water cost of \$24,747, as more fully set forth in Exhibit A.
- The Signatory Parties agree that the sum of the allowable expenses in this matter is set forth in Exhibit A and is agreed to be \$48,645, including:
 - Rate proceeding expenses of \$337 representing a 50% share of total rate proceeding expenses of \$673.
 - Deferred purchased water costs of \$17,206.
 - A revenue tax factor of 13.0637% and the resulting revenue tax of \$6,355.
- 3. For purposes of this matter, the base consumption established in Petitioner's last base rate case in million gallons (mg) is agreed to be 12,121.64 mg. This amount is reduced by the amount attributable to the Township of East Brunswick ("East Brunswick")¹ of 2,437 mg,

¹ East Brunswick purchases untreated water under its own contract with the NJWSA. The Company pumps the untreated water to its primary treatment plant from the intake connection with the NJWSA. Once the Company performs the water treatment services, East Brunswick takes delivery of the treated water at the Company's primary treatment plant. The Company does not purchase water from the NJWSA to fulfill its obligation under its contract with East Brunswick. Therefore, none of the increased purchased water costs sought or agreed to in this proceeding should be allocated to East Brunswick.

resulting in a base consumption for recovery of the PWAC of 9,684.64 mg as more fully set forth in Exhibit A.

- 4. For General Water Service ("GWS") customers under Rate Schedule No. 1, Revised Tariff Sheet No. 33A, a charge of \$0.0458 per thousand cubic feet shall be made to recover the increased purchased water costs, reflected on Rate Schedule No. 1, Revised Tariff Sheet No. 33A, attached and made a part of this Stipulation.
- 5. For service under contract customers, Rate Schedule No. 5, Revised Tariff Sheet No. 40A, PWAC charges agreed to herein result in a charge of \$2.46 per million gallons, reflected on Rate Schedule No. 5, attached and made part of this Stipulation.
- 6. As a result of this Stipulation, a residential customer with a 5/8" meter using 2,300 cubic feet or 17,204 gallons of water per quarter will see his/her water bill increase from \$141.24 to \$141.35 per quarter, an increase of \$0.11 per quarter, or an increase of 0.08%. Petitioner shall file a new tariff sheet with the Board, with copies to the Signatory Parties, in conformity with this Stipulation, to become effective on such date as the Board may direct.
- 7. The PWAC rate established herein will increase annual revenues by \$48,645 or .0646%, as reflected in Exhibit A. The additional revenue to which the Parties have stipulated, herein, is necessary to ensure that Petitioner will continue to provide safe, adequate, and proper service to its customers.
- 8. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.4, Petitioner shall file with the Board, not later than 45 days after the adjustment clause has been in effect for one year, a PWAC true-up schedule in connection with this proceeding. Copies of the true-up schedules shall be served upon all parties to the present proceeding. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.3, this PWAC, if approved by the Board, shall remain in effect until the Company's next rate case, provided that

the Company submits an annual year-end true-up as described above and an annual petition for adjustment of the PWAC amount in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.4.

- This Stipulation is the product of negotiations by the Signatory Parties, and it is an express condition of the settlement embodied by this Stipulation that it be presented to the Board in its entirety without modification or condition. It is also the intent of the Signatory Parties to this Stipulation that this settlement, once accepted and approved by the Board, shall govern all issues specified and agreed to herein. The Signatory Parties to this Stipulation specifically agree that if adopted in its entirety by the Board, no appeal shall be taken by them from the order adopting same as to those issues upon which the Signatory Parties have stipulated herein. The Signatory Parties agree that the within Stipulation reflects mutual balancing of various issues and positions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. Each term is vital to this Stipulation as a whole, since the Signatory Parties hereto expressly and jointly state that they would not have signed this Stipulation had any terms been modified in any way. In the event any particular aspect of this Stipulation is not accepted and approved by the Board, then any Party hereto materially affected thereby shall not be bound to proceed under this Stipulation. The Signatory Parties further agree that the purpose of this Stipulation is to reach fair and reasonable rates, and that it will avoid costly litigation of certain issues and that with respect to any policy or other issues which were compromised in the spirit of reaching an agreement, none of the Signatory Parties shall be prohibited from or prejudiced in arguing a different policy or position before the Board in any other proceeding, as such agreements pertain only to this matter and to no other matter.
- 10. It is specifically understood and agreed that this Stipulation has been made exclusively for the purpose of this proceeding. Except as expressly provided herein, the

Company, Board Staff and Rate Counsel shall not be deemed to have approved, agreed to, or consented to any principle or methodology underlying or supposed to underlie any agreement provided herein in total or by specific item. The Signatory Parties further agree that this Stipulation is in no way binding upon them in any other proceeding, except to enforce the terms of the Stipulation.

- 11. All rates are subject to audit by the Board.
- 12. This Stipulation may be executed in as many counterparts as there are Signatory Parties of this Stipulation, each of which counterparts shall be an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY

9/6/16 Date

Rv

JavL. Kooper, Esq.

CHRISTOPHER S. PORRINO

Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary

9/6/16 Date

By:

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of Public Utilities

Christopher Psihoutes, Deputy Altorney General

COLDE A

STEFANIE A. BRAND, ESQ.
DIRECTOR DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY Attorney for the Staff of the New Jersey Board

9/6/16

By:

Susan McClure, Esq.
Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY PURCHASED WATER ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE PROPOSED COST PER UNIT OF VOLUME BPU DOCKET NO. WRI6040306

PURCHASED WATER COSTS PURSUANT TO BPU DOCKET NO. WR15030391	\$ 5,701,187
NEW COST OF PURCHASED WATER	5,725,934
INCREASE IN PURCHASED WATER COST	\$ 24,747
RATE PROCEEDINGS EXPENSES @ 50%	337
DEFERRED PURCHASED WATER COSTS	17,206
REVENUE TAX FACTOR @ 13.0637%	6,355
SUM OF ALLOWABLE EXPENSES	\$ 48,645
BASE CONSUMPTION - MILLION GALLONS (MG)	
BASE CONSUMPTION PURSUANT TO BPU DOCKET NO. WR15030391 LESS: EAST BRUNSWICK PURSUANT TO BPU DOCKET NO. WR15030391 BASE CONSUMPTION FOR RECOVERY OF PWAC	MO 12,121.64 (2,437.00) 9,684.64
CURRENT PWAC RATE PER TCF (RATE SCHEDULE NO. 1, SHEET NO. 33A) CURRENT PWAC RATE PER MG (RATE SCHEDULE NO. 5, SHEET NO. 40A)	\$0.0000 \$0.0000
PROPOSED PWAC RATE PER TCF (RATE SCHEDULE NO. 1, SHEET NO. 33A) PROPOSED PWAC RATE PER MG (RATE SCHEDULE NO. 5, SHEET NO. 40A)	\$0.0458 \$2.4600

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY

B.P.U. No. 1 - WATER

Ninth Revised Sheet No. 33A Cancelling Eighth Sheet No. 33A

RATE SCHEDULE NO. 1 (Continued)

GENERAL WATER SERVICE - GS

PURCHASED WATER ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE (PWAC) CHARGES

A charge of \$0.0458 per thousand cubic feet will be made to recover the increased purchased water costs.

Date of Issue: April 18, 2016

Effective for Service Rendered on and After:

Issued by:

Dennis W. Doll, President

1500 Ronson Road

Iselin, New Jersey 08830-3020

November 1, 2016

Filed pursuant to an Order of the Board of Public Utilities, State of New Jersey, dated September 23, 2016 in Docket No. WR16040306.

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY
B.P.U. No. 1 - WATER

Ninth Revised Sheet No. 40A Cancelling Eighth Sheet No. 40A

RATE SCHEDULE NO. 5

SERVICE UNDER CONTRACT - SC

PURCHASED WATER ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE (PWAC) CHARGES

A charge of \$2.46 per million gallons will be made to recover the increased purchased water costs.

Date of Issue: April 18, 2016

Effective for Service Rendered on and After:

Issued by:

Dennis W. Doll, President

1500 Ronson Road

Iselin, New Jersey 08830-3020

November 1, 2016

Filed pursuant to an Order of the Board of Public Utilities, State of New Jersey, dated September 23, 2016 in Docket No. WR16040306.

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY PROOF OF REVENUE SUMMARY OF PROJECTED REVENUES

	PWAC REVENUES PRESENT RATES	PWAC REVENUES PROPOSED RATES	DIFFERENCE
RESIDENTIAL CONSUMPTION	\$0	\$23,540	\$23,540
COMMERCIAL CONSUMPTION	0	9,764	9,764
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION	. 0	7,768	7,768
SUBTOTAL	\$0	\$41,071	\$41,071
PRIVATE FIRE SERVICE	\$0	\$413	\$413
PUBLIC FIRE SERVICE	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	\$0	\$413	\$413
EDISON	\$0	\$629	\$629
HIGHLAND PARK	0	1,202	1,202
EAST BRUNSWICK	0	0	0
OLD BRIDGE MUA	0	2,051	2,051
MARLBORO MUA	0	2,948	2,948
RAHWAY	0	328	328
SUBTOTAL	\$0	\$7,158	\$7,158
MISCELLANEOUS	\$0	\$0	\$0
BAYVIEW	0	0.	0
ROUNDING	0	4.	4
GRAND TOTAL	\$0	\$48,645	\$48,645

GENERAL WATER SERVICE CONSUMPTION CHARGES

/----RATE PER TCF----\
CURRENT PROPOSED

PWAC RATE

PWAC RATE

\$0.0000

\$0.0458

SERVICE UNDER CONTRACT (RATE SCHEDULE NO. 5) RATE PER MILLION GALLONS

<u>CURRENT</u> <u>PROPOSED</u> \$0.00 \$2.46

PWAC RATE

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY PROOF OF REVENUE EXISTING RATES RESIDENTIAL

CONSUMPTION

CONSUMPTION					
	513,963,160	\$0.00000000	<u>\$0</u>		<u>\$0</u>
	TOTAL RESIDENTIAL		<u>so</u>	\$0	<u>\$0</u>
		EXISTING R. COMMERC			
CONSUMPTION - QUAR	TERLY				
	15,944,153	\$0.00000000	0		\$0
CONSUMPTION - MONT	HLY				
	197,234,792	\$0.00000000	0	\$0	<u>\$0</u>
					4)
	TOTAL COMMERCIAL		<u></u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>s</u>
		EXISTING RAINDUSTRI			
CONSTIMENTION					
CONSOMITION	169 601 872	00000000	0		\$0
	109,001,072	55.5000000	v		-
	TOTAL INDUSTRIAL		\$0	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
,	HLY 197,234,792 TOTAL COMMERCIAL 169,601,872	\$0.00000000 EXISTING RA	O SATES AL	<u></u>	<u>s</u>

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY PROOF OF REVENUE EXISTING RATES PRIVATE FIRE SERVICE - WITHOUT HOSE CONNECTIONS

CONSUMPTION - QUA	RTERLY				
	42,223	\$0.00000000	\$0		\$0
CONSUMPTION - MON	THLY				
	8,969,282	\$0.00000000	\$0		\$0
TOTAL PRIVATE FIRE	SERVICE		<u>so</u>		02
TOTAL GENERAL WAT	ER SERVICE		<u>\$0</u>		202
		EXISTING RAT			
EDISON	ADJUSTED TEST YEAR	CONSUMPTION (GA	LLONS)	255,565,025	
	RATE PER MILLION GA	LLONS ADJUSTED TEST YEA	AR REVENUES	\$0.00	\$0
HIGHLAND PARK	ADJUSTED TEST YEAR	CONSUMPTION (GA	LLONS)	488,531,368	
	RATE PER MILLION GA	LLONS ADJUSTED TEST YEA	AR REVENUES	\$0,00	\$0

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY PROOF OF REVENUE

	TROOF OF THE FERTOE		
EAST BRUNSWICK	ADJUSTED TEST YEAR CONSUMPTION (GALLONS)	2,437,000,007	
	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS ADJUSTED TEST YEAR REVENU	0.000 UES	\$0
OLD BRIDGE MUA	ADJUSTED TEST YEAR CONSUMPTION (GALLONS)	833,672,021	
	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS ADJUSTED TEST YEAR REVENT	\$0.00 JES	so
SAYREVILLE	ADJUSTED TEST YEAR CONSUMPTION (GALLONS)	0	
	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS ADJUSTED TEST YEAR REVENU	\$0.00 JES	\$0
RAHWAY	ADJUSTED TEST YEAR CONSUMPTION (GALLONS)	133,307,053	
	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS ADJUSTED TEST YEAR REVENU	\$0.00 JES	\$0
MARLBORO	ADJUSTED TEST YEAR CONSUMPTION (GALLONS)	1.198.516.647	
	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS ADJUSTED TEST YEAR REVENU	\$0.00	\$0
MARLBORO	ADJUSTED TEST YEAR CONSUMPTION (GALLONS)	1,642,500,000	
	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS ADJUSTED TEST YEAR REVENU	\$0.00 VES	\$0
TOTAL ADJUSTED TES	T YEAR REVENUES - CONTRACT SALES		<u>\$0</u>

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY PROOF OF REVENUE

PROPOSED RATES RESIDENTIAL

CONSUMPTION

CONSUMPTION				
513,963,160	\$0.00004580	\$23,540	<u>\$0</u>	\$23,540
TOTAL RESIDENTIAL		\$23,540	<u>20</u>	\$23.540
	PROPOSED RA	ATES		
	COMMERCI	1000 000		
	00111111101			
CONSUMPTION - OUARTERLY				
	B0 0000 1500	\$730	\$0	\$730
15,944,153	\$0.00004580	\$730	30	2130
CONSUMPTION - MONTHLY				
197,234,792	\$0.00004580	\$9,033	\$0	\$9,033
TOTAL COMMERCIAL		\$9.764	<u>\$0</u>	\$9,764
	PROPOSED RA			
	INDUSTRIA	LL.		
CONSUMPTION				
SOURCE TOO.				
169,601,872	\$0.00004580	\$7.768	\$0	\$7,768
TOTAL INDUSTRIAL		\$7.768	<u>\$0</u>	\$7.768
IOIAL INDUSTRIAL		11.700	20	11.100

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY PROOF OF REVENUE PROPOSED RATES PRIVATE FIRE SERVICE - WITHOUT HOSE CONNECTIONS

CONSUMPTION - QUAR	RTERLY					
	42,223	\$0.00004580	<u>\$2</u>	SO	\$2	
CONSUMPTION - MONT	THLY					
	8,969,282	\$0.00004580	<u>\$411</u>	\$0	\$411	
	TOTAL PRIVATE FIRE		\$413	<u>so</u>	<u>\$413</u>	
PROPOSED RATES CONTRACT SALES						
EDISON	PROJECTED GALLONS			255,565,025		
	RATE PER MILLION GA	LLONS PROJECTED REVEN	IUES	\$2,46	\$629	
HIGHLAND PARK				400 521 260		
	PROJECTED GALLONS			488,531,368		
	RATE PER MILLION GA	LLONS PROJECTED REVEN	rues	\$2.46	\$1,202	

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY PROOF OF REVENUE

	TROOF OF ICEVERIOR		
EAST BRUNSWICK	PROJECTED GALLONS	2,437,000,007	
	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS PROJECTED REVENUES	\$0.00	\$0
OLD BRIDGE MUA	PROJECTED GALLONS	833,672,021	
	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS PROJECTED REVENUES	<u>\$2,46</u>	\$2,051
Service Service Service			
SAYREVILLE	PROJECTED GALLONS	0	
	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS PROJECTED REVENUES	\$2.46	so
RAHWAY	ADJUSTED TEST YEAR CONSUMPTION (GALLONS)	133,307,053	
4	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS ADJUSTED TEST YEAR REVE	\$2.46 ENUES	\$328
MARLBORO	PROJECTED GALLONS	1,198,516,647	
*	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS PROJECTED REVENUES	<u>\$2,46</u>	\$2,948
MARLBORO			
MARLBORO	PROJECTED GALLONS	1,642,500,000	
	RATE PER MILLION GALLONS PROJECTED REVENUES	\$0.00	SU
TOTAL PROJECTED RE	VENUES - CONTRACT SALES	\$7,158	