



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 PINELANDS WATER)	ORDER FURTHER SUSPENDING
COMPANY, FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN)	INCREASES, CHANGES OR
ITS RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER)	ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR
TARIFF CHANGES)	SERVICE
)	
)	DOCKET NO. WR19030417
)	OAL DOCKET NO. PUC06559-2019S

Parties of Record:

Jay L. Kooper, Esq., General Counsel, Pinelands Water Company, Petitioner
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On April 1, 2019, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Pinelands Water Company ("Pinelands Water", "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 \$189,104 or 22.49% in additional annual revenues. The increase in rates was proposed to become effective on April 29, 2019.¹

The Company provides water service to approximately 2,400 customers in portions of Southampton Township ("Township"), Burlington County, New Jersey, including contract service for part of the Township itself.

¹ By letter dated April 11, 2019, the Company indicated that it would not implement rates on an interim basis prior to the effective date of the Board's initial suspension order in this matter. However, the Company noted that it intended to implement the proposed rates at the conclusion of the second suspension period on December 31, 2019, should the Board not issue a final Decision and Order by that date.

According to the petition, the proposed rate increase is necessary to support increases in expenditures such as costs in power, chemicals, maintenance, security taxes, labor insurance and employee benefits. The additional revenues are also requested 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.

On April 5, 2019, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law for hearings and on May 8, 2019, the Board issued an Order suspending the Company's proposed rate increase until August 29, 2019.

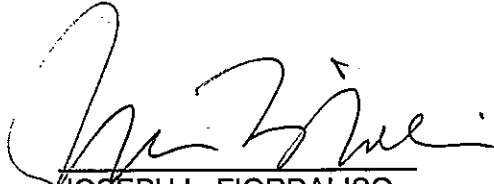
It appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are further suspended until December 29, 2019, unless prior to that date, the Board makes a determination disposing of the petition.
- (2) Petitioner shall, at least 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, NJ 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, NJ 08625), the clerk of the affected municipality, the clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the affected county, and where appropriate, the executive officer of the 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 15 days of the date of this Order.

The Order shall be effective on October 7, 2019.

DATED: 9/27/19


BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



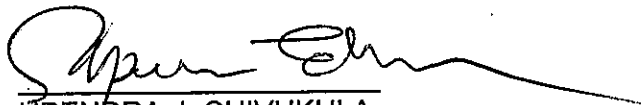
JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



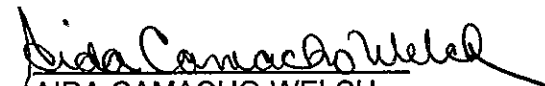
DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PINELANDS WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN
INCREASE FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES
DOCKET NO. WR19030417**

SERVICE LIST

Jay L. Kooper, Esq.
Middlesex Water Company
485C Route One South, Suite 400
Iselin, NJ 08830
jkooper@middlesex.com

Tracey Tyrell
Middlesex Water Company
485C Route One South, Suite 400
Iselin, NJ 08830
ttyrell@middlesex.com

Stephen Genzer, Esq.
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, LLP
1037 Raymond Boulevard, Suite 1520
One Riverfront Plaza
Newark, NJ 07102-5426
stephen.genzer@saul.com

Division of Rate Counsel
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director
sbrand@rpa.state.nj.gov

Debra F. Robinson, Esq.
drobinso@rpa.nj.gov

Susan E. McClure, Esq.
smcclure@rpa.nj.gov

Christine Juarez, Esq.
cjuarez@rpa.nj.gov

Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Michael Kammer, Director
mike.kammer@bpu.nj.gov

Megan Lupo, Esq., Bureau Chief
megan.lupo@bpu.nj.gov

Department of Law & Public Safety
Division of Law
Post Office Box 45029
Newark, NJ 07101-45029

Patricia Krogman, DAG
patricia.krogman@law.njoag.gov

Peter Van Brunt, DAG
peter.vanbrunt@law.njoag.gov