

October 6, 2022

Via Email Only

Honorable Carmen Diaz, Acting Secretary
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, Suite 314
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov
Carmen.Diaz@bpu.nj.gov

**Re: I/M/O The Board Of Public Utilities Response To The COVID-19 Pandemic
Order Authorizing Establishment Of A Regulatory Asset For Incremental
COVID-19 Related Expenses,
BPU Docket No. AO20060471**

Dear Acting Secretary Diaz,

Please accept this letter on behalf of Aqua New Jersey, Inc. ("Aqua" or the "Company"), which provides an update regarding reporting in connection with the above-referenced docket.

On September 15, 2022, N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.57 *et seq.*, relating to COVID-19 reporting, became effective. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.58(a) and N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.59(a), public utilities are required to provide specified information to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or "Board") in a format specified by the BPU. This information is to be provided to the BPU beginning October 6, 2022 and on a quarterly basis thereafter, for a period of 24 months. See N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.58(b) and N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.59(b).

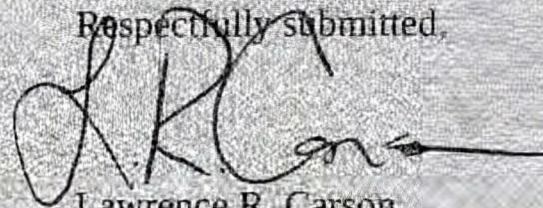
Board Staff, New Jersey utilities, including Aqua, and other stakeholders have been working together, through the Collections and Assistance Programs Working Group, to determine the format of the reports to be provided. To date, a specific format applicable to all utilities has not yet been determined. Board Staff has advised that information be provided to the Board in excel file format. The parties have scheduled additional discussions in the coming days to further refine the format of the report. Establishing a clear and consistent reporting format is important to Aqua in order to minimize the time, labor, and ultimately the cost of complying with the new statute.

Aqua has been reviewing the categories of information set forth in N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.58(a) and N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.59(a) in order to determine whether it has the requested data and whether it will be able to provide the requested comparisons. Specifically, Aqua has undertaken a good faith effort to determine the data it has available and to comply with the reporting requirements in N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.57 *et seq.*, including the October 6, 2022 reporting deadline. That review is ongoing at this time, and thus Aqua is unable to provide the information required on or before October 6, 2022. The Board should be aware that the Company is making every effort to comply, to the fullest extent possible, and will do so as soon as reasonably practicable. Aqua would note, however, that as a medium-sized utility, its resources are limited and the new statutory tracking and reporting obligations will impose a significant burden on the Company. Consequently, Aqua reserves the right to address said matters once the BPU formatting requirements are determined and released.

Aqua will be submitting the previously established monthly reporting requirements as of September 30th by October 15th.

Should you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence R. Carson
President

CC: Mike Kammer (via email only, mike.kammer@bpu.nj.gov)
Colleen A. Foley, Esq. (via email only, colleen.foley@saul.com)