

**NOTICE OF
AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC.
PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPPORTUNITY
FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Aqua New Jersey, Inc. for
Approval of an Increase in Rates for Water Service,
COVID-19 Deferred Cost Recovery, Adjustment of Certain Depreciation Rates,
and Other Tariff Changes**

**OAL Docket No. PUC 02300-2024 S
BPU Docket No. WR24010057**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, on January 19, 2024, Aqua New Jersey, Inc. (“Aqua” or “Company”), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and other relevant statutes and regulations, filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) seeking approval of, among other things: (i) a proposed increase in its fixed and volumetric rates for water service; (ii) a reset of its current Distribution System Improvement Charge (“DSIC”) to zero and implementation a new DSIC Foundational Filing and associated DSIC; (iii) recovery of certain costs related to the COVID-19 global pandemic; (iv) implementation of the Company’s plan for recovering customer-side lead service line replacement (“LSLR”) costs through an LSLR Surcharge; (v) use of deferred accounting for the expenses incurred to remediate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”); (vi) implementation of new depreciation rates; and (vii) revision of the Company’s tariffs to reflect the proposed rate increase and the resolution of the issues raised in this proceeding (“Petition”). If approved as proposed, the request would increase the annual revenues of the Company by \$8,328,380, or approximately 17.3% above the adjusted annual level of revenues for the test year period ending April 30, 2024. According to the Company, the requested rate increase is due to increases in operating expenses and investments in plant and equipment made since the Company’s last base rate case which concluded in 2019. The Company stated that the increase is necessary for it to continue to provide safe, adequate and proper service to its customers and to prevent the impairment of its financial integrity.

The proposed rates provide for increases to the following classes of customers: General Metered Service, Public Fire Protection Service, Private Fire Protection Service, and Non-Treated and Non-Potable Metered Service. The proposed rates for all customers are contained in the tariff sheets and Petition filed with the Board. The present and proposed base rates for monthly billing for General Metered Service are as follows:

COMPARISON OF PRESENT AND PROPOSED RATES

Consumption and monthly service charges have been revised as follows:

General Metered Service

<u>All Consumption</u>	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>
	\$6.452/per	\$7.518/per	\$1.066/per
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Fixed Monthly Charge:

Size of Meter	Present Fixed Rates	Proposed Fixed Rates	Proposed Fixed Rate Increase
5/8"	\$16.50	\$23.36	\$6.86
3/4"	\$24.75	\$35.04	\$10.29
1"	\$41.25	\$58.40	\$17.15
1-1/2"	\$82.50	\$116.80	\$34.30
2"	\$132.00	\$186.88	\$54.88
3"	\$247.50	\$350.40	\$102.90
4"	\$412.50	\$584.00	\$171.50
6"	\$825.00	\$1,168.00	\$343.00
8"	\$1,320.00	\$1,868.80	\$548.80
10"	\$1,897.50	\$2,686.40	\$788.90
12"	\$3,547.50	\$5,022.40	\$1,474.90

Billing for each period shall be based on the volume of water consumed plus all applicable fixed charges, including the fixed monthly service charge and any authorized surcharges in effect at that time.

A GENERAL METERED SERVICE RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER WITH A 5/8" METER USING 6,000 GALLONS OF WATER PER MONTH WILL SEE HIS/HER TOTAL MONTHLY BILL (INCLUDING FIXED, CONSUMPTION AND DSIC CHARGES) INCREASE FROM \$57.83 TO \$68.47, AN INCREASE OF \$10.64 PER MONTH, APPROXIMATELY 18.4% OR APPROXIMATELY \$0.34 PER DAY. THIS PROPOSED RATE IMPACT DOES NOT REFLECT THE INCLUSION IN RATES OF A DSIC OR OTHER SURCHARGE WHICH MAY BE APPROVED IN THE FUTURE.

Any relief determined by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers of the Company in such manner and, in such amounts or percentages, as the Board may deem appropriate. The Board may choose to impose a greater portion of the increase on any present or future class or classes, group or groups of customers, may exclude from any increase any of the foregoing, or may vary the amount of percentage increase applicable to any of the foregoing.

The Company intends to implement, on an interim basis, subject to any refunds that may be ordered by the Board, the proposed tariff for service on and after October 21, 2024 if the Board has not finally determined a just and reasonable tariff schedule prior to that date.

The tariff for the proposed rates is part of the Petition, which was served upon the Director of the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel"). A copy of this Notice of Public Hearings is being served on the clerk, executive or administrator of each municipality and county within the Company's service areas. The Petition and this Notice have been sent to Rate Counsel, who will represent the interests of all Aqua customers in this proceeding. Copies of the Petition and this Notice are posted on the Company's website at www.aquawater.com. Copies of the Petition are also available to review online at the Board's website, <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/> where you can search by the above-captioned docket number, WR24010057.

The Board transmitted the Company’s Petition to the Office of Administrative Law (“OAL”) for the purpose of conducting public and evidentiary hearings in this matter. The Petition has been docketed as OAL Docket No. PUC 02300-2024 S.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the OAL has scheduled virtual public comment hearings before an Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) on the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Petition:

Date: May 14, 2024
Times: 4:30 PM and 5:30 P.M.
Link: <https://oal-nj-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1617108392?pwd=V2RRTHY2MGdpci9EaXBsQ1IHdzNTdz09>
Dial-in: 1-669-254-5252
Meeting ID: 161 710 8392
Passcode: 653766

Representatives from the Company, Board Staff, and Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public are invited to participate by utilizing the link or dial-in information above to express their views on the Petition. All comments will be made a part of the final record in this proceeding. Whether or not you participate in the virtual public hearings, written comments may be submitted to the Hon. Jacob Gertsman, Office of Administrative Law, P.O. Box 049, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0049 and the Hon. Sherri L. Golden, Secretary of the Board of Public Utilities, 44 S Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625-0350, or emailed to board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov. Please include OAL Docket No. PUC 02300-2024 S and BPU Docket No. WR24010057 in your written comments.

Comments may also be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board’s e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. Please include “Confidential Information” in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board’s webpage: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>.

In order to encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters or listening assistance, at least 48 hours prior to the above hearing to courtney.schultz@saul.com or by calling 215-972-7717.

AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC.
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