

# SAUL EWING

LLP

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May 7, 2024

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Honorable Sherri Golden, Secretary of the Board  
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[board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)

RE: In the Matter of Aqua New Jersey, Inc. for Approval of an Increase  
In Rates for the Water Service, COVID-19 Deferred Cost Recovery,  
Adjustment of Certain Depreciation Rates and Other Tariff Changes  
BPU Docket No. WR24010057

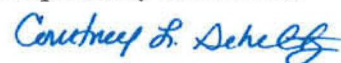
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Dear Secretary Golden:

On behalf of Petitioner, Aqua New Jersey, Inc., attached for filing are the Affidavits for the Public Notice of the public comment hearings that will take place on May 14, 2024, with reference to the above matter. Also enclosed is the Certificate of Service, serving said Public Notice on the requisite public officials in the Company's service territories.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Courtney L. Schultz

CLS/CJ  
Encls.

cc: Service List

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DELAWARE FLORIDA ILLINOIS MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS MINNESOTA NEW JERSEY NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA WASHINGTON, DC

A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

52260406.1

## SERVICE LIST

I/M/O 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

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**I/M/O AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES  
FOR WATER SERVICES, COVID-19 DEFERRED COST RECOVERY, ADJUSTMENT  
OF CERTAIN DEPRECIATION RATES, AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES**

**BPU DOCKET NO. WR24010057**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Courtney Schultz, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the Public Notice of Hearing scheduled for May 14, 2024 was served on all parties per the Distribution List stated in the letter, via First Class Mail and Email, on April 22, 2024.

By: /s/ Courtney L. Schultz  
Courtney L. Schultz, Esquire No. 306479  
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP  
1500 Market Street  
Centre Square West, 38th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 972-7717

Dated: May 7, 2024





April 22, 2024

**VIA First Class Mail (and E-mail where available)**

To All Individuals per attached Distribution List

**Re: Aqua New Jersey, Inc. -2024 Rate Case Filing  
BPU Docket No. WR24010057**

Dear Official,

Enclosed please find the Public Notice of Hearing Scheduled for May 14, 2024 in connection with the above-captioned matter.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Michael Wenger". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "P" and "M".

Patrick Michael Wenger  
762 W. Lancaster Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
Phone: 215-290-5097  
[PMWenger@aquaamerica.com](mailto:PMWenger@aquaamerica.com)

Enclosure

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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Order Number : 10090241

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Brown County

Of the **Asbury Park Press**, a newspaper printed in Freehold, New Jersey and published in Neptune, in State of New Jersey and Monmouth/Ocean Counties, and of general circulation in Monmouth/Ocean Counties, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that the advertisement of which the annexed is a true copy, has been published in said newspaper in the issue:

04/21/2024

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Legal Clerk

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Notary Public State of Wisconsin County of Brown

*[Handwritten Signature]*

My commission expires

DENISE ROBERTS  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

# LOCALIQ

Erie Times-News | The Intelligencer  
Bucks County Courier Times  
The Daily American | Beaver County Times  
Pocono Record | Burlington County Times

PO Box 631202 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1202

## **AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

Patrick Wenger  
Not specified  
762 W Lancaster AVE  
Bryn Mawr PA 19010-3402

### **STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON**

The Burlington County Times, a newspaper printed and published and of general circulation in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue:

04/22/2024

and that the fees charged are legal.

Sworn to and subscribed before on 04/22/2024

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of Wis. County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost: \$299.00

Order No: 10087736

# of Copies:

Customer No: 1435068

1

PO #:

**THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!**

*Please do not use this form for payment remittance.*

AMY KOKOTT  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Order Number : 10090251

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Brown County

Of the **Courier News**, a newspaper printed in Freehold, New Jersey and published in Somerville, in State of New Jersey and Somerset County, and of general circulation in Somerset County, who being duly sworn, depose and saith that the advertisement of which the annexed is a true copy, has been published in said newspaper in the issue:

04/21/2024

*[Handwritten signature]*

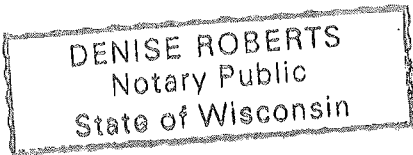
Legal Clerk

*[Handwritten signature: Denise Roberts]*

Notary Public State of Wisconsin County of Brown

*[Handwritten date: 4-6-27]*

My commission expires



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Order Number : 10090296

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Brown County

Of the **Courier Post**, a newspaper printed in Cherry Hill, New Jersey and published in Cherry Hill, in State of New Jersey and Camden County, and of general circulation in Camden County, who being duly sworn, depose and saith that the advertisement of which the annexed is a true copy, has been published in said newspaper in the issue:

04/21/2024

Legal Clerk

*Nancy Heyrman*  
Notary Public State of Wisconsin County of Brown

5.15.27

My commission expires

NANCY HEYRMAN  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Order Number : 10090402

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Brown County

Of the **Daily Record**, a newspaper printed in Freehold, New Jersey and published in Parsippany, in State of New Jersey and Morris County, and of general circulation in Morris County, who being duly sworn, depose and saith that the advertisement of which the annexed is a true copy, has been published in said newspaper in the issue:

04/21/2024

*[Handwritten signature]*

Legal Clerk

*[Handwritten signature]*

Notary Public State of Wisconsin County of Brown

*[Handwritten signature]*

My commission expires

DENISE ROBERTS  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

# LOCALIQ

Observer-Dispatch | Daily Messenger  
Times Telegram | New Jersey Herald  
Times Herald-Record

PO Box 631202 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1202

## **AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

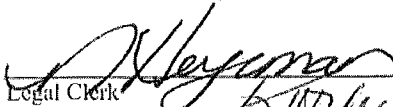
Patrick Wenger  
Not specified  
762 W Lancaster AVE  
Bryn Mawr PA 19010-3402

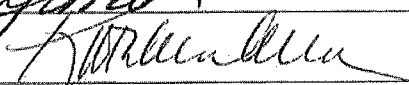
STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

The New Jersey Herald, a newspaper printed, published and of general circulation in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issues dated on:

04/21/2024

and that the fees charged are legal.  
Sworn to and subscribed before on 04/21/2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost: \$108.75  
Order No: 10090362 # of Copies:  
Customer No: 1435068 0  
PO #: Aqua NJ 2024 Base Rate NWT

**THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!**

*Please do not use this form for payment remittance.*

KATHLEEN ALLEN  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

State of New Jersey, County of Hudson, ss:

Nichole Seitz, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That (s)he is a duly authorized signatory of Column Software, PBC, duly authorized agent of The Press of Atlantic City, a newspaper printed and published in the City of Linwood, distributed in the following counties: Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean and mailed to various parts of the State of New Jersey, the United States, and foreign countries, does hereby certify that the Notice was published in The Press of Atlantic City on:

**PUBLICATION DATES:**

Apr. 20, 2024

**NOTICE ID:** wMKAFv4eCodMRCWSPtaa

**PUBLISHER ID:** COL4927

**NOTICE NAME:** Public Notice

**Publication Fee:** 160.24

All interested parties may rely upon the representations contained herein limited solely to the authenticity of the Notice accompanying this Certification to be an accurate reproduction of the same and the date upon which it was published.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

*Nichole Seitz*

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

**VERIFICATION**

State of New Jersey  
County of Hudson

**SHANNEA H HOLMES**  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
My Commission Expires August 1, 2026

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on this: 04/23/2024

*Shannea H. Holmes*

Notary Public  
Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.



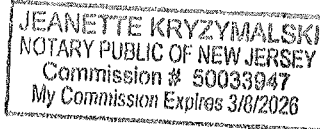
State of New Jersey,) ss  
County of Gloucester)

Loretta Doran being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of NJ Advance Media; that South Jersey Times is a public newspaper, with general circulation in Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

South Jersey Times 04/22/2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22th day of April 2024



\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**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 5  
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 Thous. Gals.	\$7.518/per Thous. Gals.	\$1.066/per Thous. Gals.

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](http://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=V2RR-THY2MGdodi9EaXBsO1IHdzNTdz09>

**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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625-0350, or emailed to [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto: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](mailto:courtney.schultz@saul.com) or by calling 215-972-7717.

**AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC.**  
10 Black Forest Road  
Hamilton, New Jersey 08691

04/22/24

\$0.00

10855219.01





Star-Ledger

LEGAL AFFIDAVIT

AD#: 0010856146

Total

\$521.20

State of New Jersey,) ss  
County of Middlesex)

Lisa Arrington being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of NJ Advance Media; that Star-Ledger is a public newspaper, with general circulation in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

Star-Ledger 04/22/2024

Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23th day of April 2024

Notary Public



**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**

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**General Metered Service**

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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](http://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.

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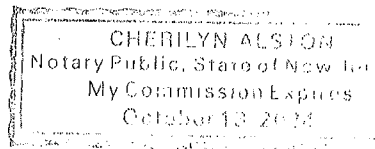
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**Passcode:** 653766

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625-0350, or emailed to [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto: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](mailto:courtney.schultz@saul.com) or by calling 215-972-7717.

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