



Agenda Date: 2/14/24  
Agenda Item: VB

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350  
[www.nj.gov/bpu/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION 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	)	ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE
	)	
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	)	
	)	DOCKET NO. WR24010057

**Parties of Record:**

**Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel  
**Courtney L. Schultz, Esq.**, Saul Ewing Arnstein and Lehr, LLP, on behalf of Aqua New Jersey, Inc.

BY THE BOARD:

On January 19, 2024, Aqua New Jersey, Inc. (“Aqua” or “Company”) filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) seeking approval of an increase in its base rates for water service of approximately \$8,329,647, or 17.31%, for services rendered on and after February 19, 2024 (“Petition”).

Aqua is engaged in the business of collecting, treating, and distributing water for retail service to approximately 55,350 customers in Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Burlington, Monmouth, Camden, Ocean, Sussex, Gloucester, and Atlantic Counties, New Jersey.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Petition, the Company’s request is driven by several factors including increased operating and maintenance expenses; increased costs related to new regulatory, legal, and environmental requirements not currently recovered in rates; and significant capital investments required to continue to provide safe, adequate and proper water service.

The Company asserted that present rates for water service are not adequate to meet its increased expenses, support Aqua’s capital improvement programs, and provide the Company with a reasonable return on its utility plant investments.

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<sup>1</sup> Aqua is also engaged in the business of wastewater collection, treatment, and transmission, serving approximately 6,600 wastewater customers. The Company did not request to update its wastewater rates in the Petition.

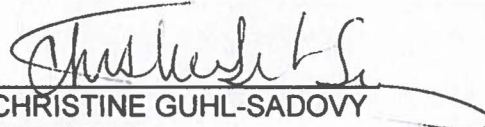
Because the proposed revisions, if approved, will likely increase existing rates, and change or alter existing classifications in the Aqua's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** as follows:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21(d), and consistent with N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, the proposed revisions are suspended until June 19, 2024, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the Petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) Aqua shall, at least 10 days prior to the date set for hearing on the Petition by the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL"), file with this Board, and with the OAL, 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) Aqua shall serve copies of this Order upon the OAL, the Division of Rate Counsel (140 East Front Street, 4th Floor, Post Office Box 003, Trenton, N.J. 08625), the clerk of each affected municipality, the clerk of the Boards of County Commissioners of each 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.

This Order shall be effective on February 14, 2024.

DATED: February 14, 2024

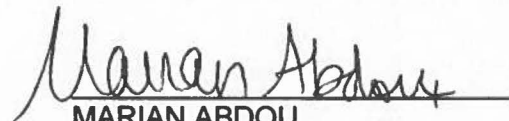
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:



CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY  
PRESIDENT



DR. ZEMON CHRISTODOULOU  
COMMISSIONER

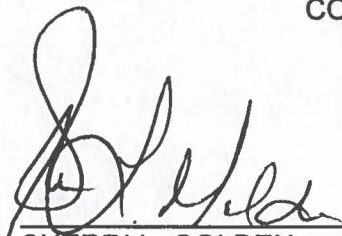


MARIAN ABDOU  
COMMISSIONER



MICHAEL BANGE  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



SHERRI L. GOLDEN  
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 PETITION 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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