



Agenda Date: 5/8/19

Agenda Item: VA

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF PINELANDS WATER COMPANY,)	ORDER SUSPENDING
FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN ITS RATES)	INCREASES, CHANGES OR
FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF)	ALTERATIONS IN RATES
CHANGES)	FOR WATER SERVICE
)	
)	DOCKET NO. WR19030417

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, with its principal business office located at 485C Route One South, Suite 400, Iselin, New Jersey 08830, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), filed a petition for authority to increase its base tariff rates and charges for water service amounting to approximately \$189,104 or 22.49% above the annual revenues. The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on April 29, 2019.¹ Pinelands Water serves approximately 2,400 customers in portions of Southampton Township ("Township"), Burlington County, including contract service for part of the Township itself.

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 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.

¹ By letter dated April 11, 2019, the Company indicated that it will 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.

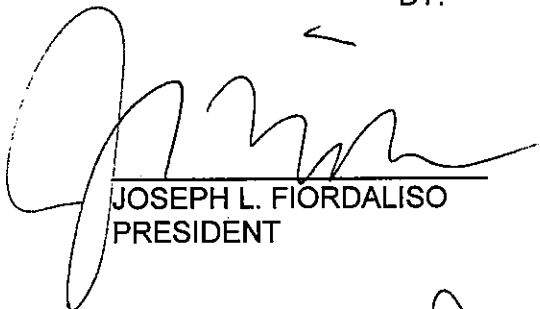
It appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until August 29, 2019, unless the Board prior to that date makes a determination disposing of the petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (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, Post Office Box 003, 4th Floor, Trenton, NJ 08525), 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.

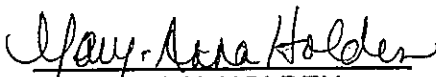
This Order shall be effective on May 18, 2019.

DATED: 5/8/19

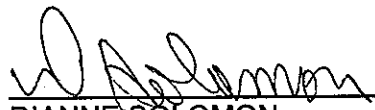
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



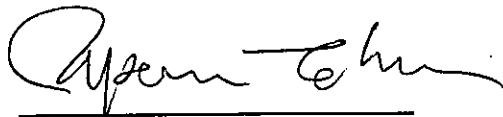
JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



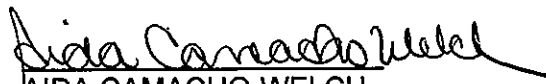
DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PINELANDS WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN
INCREASE IN ITS RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES

BPU DOCKET NO. WR19030417

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