Agenda Date: 02/19/20 Agenda Item: VA



STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR SERVICE

DOCKET NO. WR20010056

Parties of Record

Courtney L. Schultz, Esq., Saul Ewing Arnstein and Lehr LLP, on behalf of Aqua New Jersey, Inc. Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On January 21, 2020, Aqua New Jersey, Inc. ("Company" or "Petitioner"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey, filed with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.7, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, a petition seeking to increase rates for wastewater service in the amount of \$1,089,968 or 22.2% above the annual level of revenues for the test year ending April 30, 2020.

Petitioner provides wastewater service¹ through the operation of several wastewater systems located throughout the State of New Jersey. The Company has generally organized its water and wastewater business by the following division: the Northern Division (based in Phillipsburg), the Central Division (Based in Hamilton), the Eastern Division (based in Berkeley), and the Southern Division (based in Blackwood). The Company's wastewater facilities are located in its Northern, Central and Southern Divisions.

¹The Petitioner serves approximately 6,281 wastewater customers.

The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on February 21, 2020. The Petitioner also indicates that it intends to implement the proposed rates on October 21, 2020, on an interim basis, following the expiration of the suspension periods if the Board has not made a final determination in this matter prior pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.

According to the petition, the rate increase is required to enable the Petitioner to recover its increases in its operating expenses; to change its depreciation rates for certain categories of Company property; to authorize acquisition adjustments and the recovery of certain costs associated with the Company's acquisition of individual wastewater systems; to implement a system-wide Purchased Wastewater Treatment Adjustment Clause; and to make certain identified tariff changes to continue to provide safe, adequate and proper water service to its customers and to comply with state and federal regulations. 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 June 21, 2020, 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 ten (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 New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (140 East Front Street, 4th Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625), the clerk of each affected municipality, the clerk of the Boards of Chosen Freeholders of each affected county, and where appropriate, the executive officer of each 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 fifteen (15) days of the date of this Order.

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This Order shall be effective on February 29, 2020.

DATED: 2/19/20

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

SEPHY FIORDALISO RESIDENT

RY-ANN

COMMISSIONER

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA COMMISSIONER

DIANNE SOLOMON

COMMISSIONER

ROBÉRT M. GORDON

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH SECRETARY

HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES BPU DOCKET NO. WR20010056

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