

WATER

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF AQUA	)	ORDER ACCEPTING
NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF	)	TARIFF REVISIONS
CHANGES IN ITS TARIFFS FOR WATER AND	)	
WASTEWATER SERVICE PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C.	)	
14:1-5.11	)	BPU DOCKET NO. WT21091110

#### Parties of Record:

**Colleen A. Foley, Esq.,** Saul, Ewing, Arnstein, & Lehr, LLP, on behalf of Aqua New Jersey, Inc. **Brian Lipman, Esq., Director,** New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

#### BY THE BOARD:

On September 2, 2021 Aqua New Jersey Inc. ("Aqua" or "Company"), a public utility corporation of the State of New Jersey engaged in the business of collecting, treating and distributing water for retail and wholesale customers and wastewater service, filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for the authority to add certain provisions to its existing tariffs for water and wastewater service pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11.

Aqua provides wastewater service to approximately 6,500 customers and water service to approximately 55,000 customers in service areas located throughout the State of New Jersey. Aqua is subject to the regulation of the Board for the provision of safe, adequate and proper water and wastewater service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-23.

Aqua's most recent wastewater base rate case concluded in December 2020 in BPU Docket No. WR20010056, and its current wastewater tariff became effective January 1, 2021. With respect to water service, Aqua's most recent base rate case concluded in May 2019 in BPU Docket No. WR18121351, and its current water tariff became effective June 1, 2019. Since the Board's approval of the Company's current water and wastewater tariffs, the Company indicates that it has reviewed its tariffs and determined that its present tariff language addressing matters of liability is not adequate to meet current industry challenges. Consequently, the Company

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> B.P.U. No 18 – Water, which is available on the Company's website at https://www.aquaamerica.com/our-states/new-jersey.aspx.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> B.P.U. No. 18 – Sewer, which is available on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.aquaamerica.com/our-states/new-jersey.aspx">https://www.aquaamerica.com/our-states/new-jersey.aspx</a>.

researched liability provisions contained in the Board-approved tariffs of other New Jersey water and wastewater utilities, and identified commonly used provisions in existing tariffs. In addition, the Company crafted a provision addressing its responsibilities when notices regarding water and/or wastewater service matters are issued to the public. The Company proposed to amend its tariffs to be consistent with other New Jersey utilities, and to protect itself and its customers from incurring unnecessary costs. The Company included the revised tariff sheets incorporating the proposed changes to the General Information section of the Company's current water and wastewater tariffs with its petition. <sup>3</sup>

# New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") Comments

By correspondence dated October 8, 2021, Rate Counsel filed comments stating that the new language is customary and routinely found in other water and wastewater tariffs. Rate Counsel added that the proposed tariff additions do not involve the provision of new tariffed services, will not impact the Company's revenues and will not result in cost increases to customers. Therefore, Rate Counsel has no objection to the Board granting the Company's request."

# **DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

Based upon the aforementioned and absent any objection from Rate Counsel, the Board **HEREBY APPROVES** revised tariff sheets B.P.U. No. 18 – Water, Revised Sheet 6 and B.P.U. No. 18 - Sewer, Revised Sheet 3D.

The Company is <u>HEREBY DIRECTED</u> to file the revised sheets reflecting the changes to the General Information section of the Company's water and wastewater tariffs, within 10 days from the effective date of this Order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Company identified the revised tariff sheets as Original Sheet 6 and Original Sheet 3D.

This Order shall be effective on December 8, 2021.

DATED: December 1, 2021

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** 

BY:

OSEPH L. FIORDALISO

PRESIDENT

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER

JPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA

**COMMISSIONER** 

ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH

**SECRETARY** 

DIANNÉ SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GORDON COMMISSIONER

# IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN ITS TARIFFS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11

#### **BPU DOCKET NO. WT21091110**

#### **SERVICE LIST**

### Aqua New Jersey, Inc.

Colleen Foley, Esq
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP
One River Front Plaza, Suite 1520
1037 Raymond Blvd.
Newark, NJ 07102
colleen.foley@saul.com

#### **Division of Rate Counsel**

140 East Front Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 003 Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Brian Lipman, Esq., Director blipman@rpa.nj.gov

Susan McClure, Esq. smcclure@rpa.nj.gov

Emily Smithman, Esq. esmithman@rpa.nj.gov

#### **Department of Law and Public Safety**

Public Utilities Section Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex 25 Market Street P.O. Box 112 Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Pamela Owen, Esq.
Assistant Section Chief
pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov

Brandon Simmons, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
brandon.simmons@law.njoag.gov

Steven Chaplar, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
steven.Chaplar@law.njoag.gov

# **Board of Public Utilities**

44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary Board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

# **Division of Water**

Michael Kammer, Director mike.kammer@bpu.nj.gov

Megan Lupo, Chief megan.lupo@bpu.nj.gov

Kyle Felton kyle.felton@bpu.nj.gov

#### Counsel's Office

Suzanne Patnaude, Esq. suzanne.patnaude@bpu.nj.gov