

Agenda Date: 11/19/18

Agenda Item: 7A

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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

## **CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITIONS OF	)	ORDER OF APPROVAL
PINELANDS WATER COMPANY, PINELANDS	)	
WASTEWATER COMPANY, AND MIDDLESEX	)	
WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF THE	)	
RELOCATION OF THEIR BUSINESS OFFICE	)	BPU DOCKET NOS. WO18070797,
PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1(c) and (e)	)	WO18070798, and WO18070799

#### Parties of Record:

Jay L. Kooper, Esq., General Counsel, Pinelands Water Company, Pinelands Wastewater Company, and Middlesex Water Company Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

#### BY THE BOARD:

On July 25, 2018, Pinelands Water Company and Pinelands Wastewater Company, wholly-owned subsidiaries of Middlesex Water Company, and Middlesex Water Company (collectively, "Companies"), filed petitions, and supporting affidavits with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") pursuant to N.J.A.C.14:3-5.1(c) and (e) for approval of the relocation of their Iselin business office from 1500 Ronson Road ("JRT Center") to 485 Route One South, Building C, Fourth Floor, Iselin, New Jersey, which is 0.3 miles from the current location. The Companies stated that following the completion of the relocation, substantial improvements and renovations will be made at the JRT Center to transform it into a dedicated training and field distribution center.

Since the three petitions seek the same relief and the matter is uncontested, the Board is consolidating the filings, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-17.1(b)3.

N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1(c) provides that "[t]he utility shall file written notice with the Board of any proposed change in the functions of one or more of these offices at least 14 business days prior to the change being made." N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1(e) provides that if a utility desires to close or relocate an office, the utility shall follow specific notice procedures to customers. Board Staff and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") have determined that the Companies have complied with N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1(c) and (e) in their entirety, including mailing copies of the petition, to the Clerk of the affected municipality, the Board, and Rate Counsel.

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The Companies stated that the relocation of the office is beneficial and will provide customers with the same high level of service. In addition, the Companies stated that the hours of operation at the current Iselin Office will continue at the new site. They further stated that the 485 Route One South location will comply with the American with Disabilities Act.

Notice of the relocation has been posted at the existing site. In addition, Middlesex Water Company published notice of the relocation in the Newark Star-Ledger and the Home News Tribune, and Pinelands Wastewater Company and Pinelands Water Company published notice of the relocation in the Burlington County Times. The public notice detailed the relocation and informed the public that they may submit written comments to the Board with respect to the relocation.

In order to keep the public informed of the switch in locations, Middlesex Water Company states it will or has:

- Posted notices at the current office;
- Placed public notifications placed in the area newspapers, including information for customers who wish to submit objections in writing; and
- All Inquiry and Collection telephone personnel will have information to properly direct customers to the new location.

Rate Counsel advised the Board by letter dated August 30, 2018 that it has no objections to the Companies relocation of their offices from 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, New Jersey, to 485 Route One South, Building C, Fourth Floor, Iselin, New Jersey. The Board has received no letters in opposition to the relocation.

After review of the entire record in this matter, including the comments filed on behalf of Rate Counsel, the Board **HEREBY FINDS**:

- On July 25, 2018 Pinelands Water Company, Pinelands Wastewater Company and Middlesex Water Company, filed a petition, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1, to relocate its 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, New Jersey office to 485 Route One South, Building C, Fourth Floor, Iselin, New Jersey.
- 2. The Companies have complied with N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1, including the relevant notice requirements;
- 3. No objections to this relocation have been received by the Board; and
- 4. The relocation of the office located at 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, New Jersey to 485 Route One South, Building C, Fourth Floor, Iselin, New Jersey is not unreasonable and will not unduly prejudice the public interest.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, the Board <u>HEREBY APPROVES</u> the relocation of the Companies' office located at 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, New Jersey to 485 Route One South, Building C, Fourth Floor, Iselin, New Jersey, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The Companies' 485 Route One South address shall maintain the same hours of operation and level of service as were provided at its 1500 Ronson Road location.
- 2. This Order shall not affect or in any way limit the exercise of the authority of this Board or of this State, in any future petition or in any proceedings with

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respect to rates, franchises, service, financing, accounting, capitalization, depreciation or any other matter affecting the Companies, including any request that may be made to recover costs associated with the consolidated petitions for business office relocation being approved herein.

The Order shall become effective on November 29, 2018.

DATED: 11/19/18

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**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** 

BY:

JOSÉPH L. FIORDALISO

**PRESIDENT** 

COMMISSIONER

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA

COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GORDON

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH

**SECRETARY** 

I 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 Petitions of Pinelands Water Company, Pinelands Wastewater Company, and Middlesex Water Company for Approval of the Relocation of Their Business Office Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1(c) and (e)

BPU Docket Nos. WO18070797, WO18070798, and WO18070799

#### SERVICE LIST

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# State of New Jersey

DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL 140 East Front Street, 4<sup>TH</sup> FL P.O. Box 003 Trenton, New Jersey 08625 RECEIVED MAIL ROOM

OCT 15 2018

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TRENTON, NJ

STEFANIE A. BRAND Director

October 10, 2018

## Via Hand Delivery

PHIL MURPHY

Governor

SHEILA OLIVER

Lt. Governor

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Re: I/M/O the Petition of Middlesex Water Company for Approval of the Relocation of its Business Office Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1 (c) and (e) BPU Docket No. WE18070799

I/M/O the Petition of Pinelands Wastewater Company for Approval of the Relocation of its Business Office Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1 (c) and (e) BPU Docket No. WE18070798

I/M/O the Petition of Pinelands Water Company for Approval of the Relocation of its Business Office Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:3-5.1 (c) and (e) BPU Docket No. WE18070797

Dear Secretary Camacho-Welch:

Please accept this letter as the comments of the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") in the above-referenced matters. Please date stamp the additional copy as "filed" and return it in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Rate Counsel has reviewed the Petitions filed pertaining to the relocation of business offices as contained and outlined in each Petition. The Division will defer to the Board of Public Utilities in rending final decisions in these matters.

Please contact the Division of Rate Counsel, if we can be of further assistance.

Respectfully submitted, Stefanie A. Brand

Director, Rate Counsel

Debra F Robinson
Deputy Rate Counsel

In the Matter of the Petition of Middlesex Water Company/ Pinelands Wastewater Company/Pinelands Water Company for Approval of the Relocation of its Business Office Pursuant to NJAC 14:3-5.1 (c) and (e)

BPU Docket Nos. WE18070797 WE18070798 WE18070799

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