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**REMARKS OF STEFANIE A. BRAND,
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PRESENTED BY GINA M. HUNT, ESQ.
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**In The Matter of the Petition of Aqua New Jersey Inc.'s Maxim Wastewater
Division for Approval of a Purchased Sewerage Treatment Adjustment
Clause True-Up for 2006
BPU Docket No. WR07080632
January 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Public Hearing
Howell, New Jersey**

Good evening, everyone, my name is Gina M. Hunt. I am an attorney with the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel"). Rate Counsel represents and protects the interests of all utility consumers including residential customers, small business customers, small and large industrial customers, schools, libraries, and other institutions in our communities. Rate Counsel is a party in cases where New Jersey utilities seek changes in their rates or services. Rate Counsel also gives consumers a voice in setting long-range energy, water and telecommunications policy that will affect the rendering of utility services well into the future.

In this case, Aqua New Jersey, Inc., (the “Company”) through its Maxim Wastewater Division provides sanitary sewage service to approximately 2,570 customers in the Township of Howell, County of Monmouth.

The Ocean County Utilities Authority (“OCUA”) treats all of the wastewater collected by Maxim, which is a Bulk Rate customer of the OCUA. Bills are rendered by the OCUA and paid by Maxim on a quarterly basis during the year. The OCUA estimates the volume of wastewater to be treated for Maxim in January of each year and bases its bills to Maxim the ensuing year on that estimate. Additionally, the OCUA reviews the actual volumes treated for Maxim and provides charge or credit on Maxim’s First Quarter bill. The Company has asked, by way of Petition to the Board of Public Utilities, for approval of a purchased wastewater adjustment clause true-up (“PSTAC”) for calendar year 2006 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.1 *et seq.* to reflect its over-recovery. The Company has performed a true-up comparing actual revenues and expenses for the 2006 calendar year and determined that there was an over-recovery, including the estimated costs of this proceeding, of \$15,034 for 2006. As a result of this analysis, the Company has concluded that an adjustment should be made in the tariff rates. The Company has calculated and applied interest to the refundable portion of the 2006 over-recovery amount.

Rate Counsel has attorneys and expert witnesses analyzing data from the

Company to effectively examine the Company's calculations. In the event that Evidentiary hearings will be held, they will be at the Office of Administrative Law. At that time we will cross-examine the Company's witnesses. It is important that you be aware that decisions regarding all rate modifications in New Jersey are made by the Board of Public Utilities.

The purpose of this open public hearing is for you, the customer, to voice your opinion, relate your experiences with the Company, and offer comments about the Company's proposed increase and any service problems you may be experiencing. It is important that you express your views, because they will become part of the record on which the Board of Public Utilities makes its decisions. Rate Counsel also needs to hear your views in order to represent your interests in this legal process. We strongly encourage your participation, which will help us evaluate the Company's proposal and prepare for the evidentiary hearings.

This public hearing is being transcribed and your comments will become part of the record. The hearing officer will instruct you to give your name and address before you speak. I would like to reiterate the importance of your input so that Rate Counsel can have a clear record of your concerns and interests. On behalf of Rate Counsel, I thank you for attending this public hearing.