Agenda Date: 6/13/08 Agenda Item: VB-1



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
www.nj.gov/bpu/

WATER

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

ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR SERVICE

BPU DOCKET NO. WR08040282

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On April 29, 2008, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11, 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 subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities (Board), filed a petition seeking to increase and revise its rates and charges for water service amounting to approximately \$115,565 or 19.76% above current annual revenues. The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on June 15, 2008. The Petitioner further states that it will implement the proposed rates on February 15, 2009, on an interim basis, pursuant to law, if the Board has suspended the effective date of the new rates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, but have not finally determined a new just and reasonable tariff prior to that date.

The Company seeks the requested increase to enable the 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.

Pinelands Water Company provides water service to approximately 2,400 customers to the portions of Southampton Township, Burlington County, New Jersey known as Leisuretowne and Hampton Lakes.

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

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until October 15, 2008, unless the Board prior to that date makes a determination disposing of the petition;
- (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, N.J. 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, at the same time it files with this Board, also file proof of service of copies of this Order upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Division of Rate Counsel (31 Clinton Street, P.O. Box 46005, Newark, NJ 07102), 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 the affected county within its service area. Service of the petition, notice of hearings and this Suspension Order may be made simultaneously.

DATED: 4/16/08

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

JEANNE M. FOX PRESIDENT

FREDERICK F. BUTLER

COMMISSIONER

OSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

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NICHOLAS V. ASSELTA

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO **SECRETARY** I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilities

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

BPU DOCKET NO. WR08040282

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