

Agenda Date: 6/18/12 Agenda Item: 5D

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

WATER	
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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY FOR)	ORDER ADOPTING STIPULATION
AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE THE LEVEL OF ITS PURCHASED SEWERAGE TREATMENT ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE)))	BPU Docket No. WR12020119 OAL Docket No. PUC02125-2012S

Parties of Record:

Ira G. Megdal, Esq., Cozen O'Connor for the Petitioner **Stefanie A. Brand, Esq.**, Director, Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On February 6, 2012, the Atlantic City Sewerage Company ("Petitioner") a public utility of the State of New Jersey filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 14:9-8.1 et seq. requesting to change the level of its Purchased Sewerage Treatment Adjustment Clause ("PSTAC"), volumetric treatment charge from \$20.89 per Mcf of metered water to a rate of \$21.695 per Mcf. This represents an increase of \$7.49 or 1.55% on the average residential customer's annual sewerage bill.

Petitioner is a sewer utility engaged in the collection and transmission of sewage. All of the sewerage collected and transmitted by the Petitioner is treated by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority. Petitioner serves approximately 7,700 customers.

The petition was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") on February 17, 2012, as a contested case and was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") W. Todd Miller.

The parties to this proceeding are the Petitioner, the Staff of the Board and the Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel"). There were no interveners in this proceeding.

A telephonic pre-hearing conference was held on April 13, 2012. A public hearing was held on June 4, 2012, at the City Council Chambers in Atlantic City, New Jersey after appropriate notice. No members of the public were in attendance at the public hearing.

Subsequent to the public hearing, the Petitioner, Board Staff and Rate Counsel (collectively, the "Parties"), reached a Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") resolving all issues in this matter.

On June 11, 2012, ALJ W. Todd Miller issued his Initial Decision recommending adoption of the Stipulation executed by the Parties, finding that the Parties had voluntarily agreed to the Stipulation and that the Stipulation fully disposes of all issues and was consistent with the law.

DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS

As more fully discussed in the attached Stipulation¹, the Parties agreed that the following increases are reasonable and appropriate to allow the Petitioner to recover increased purchased water expenses:

The amount to be recovered through the PSTAC is \$9,224,531. This includes an underrecovery for 2012 of \$38,120 and the projected costs (after true-up for the costs of last year's proceeding) of \$8,000. This is the amount to be recovered in 2012 through the Volumetric Treatment Charge, which is the rate through which the PSTAC is affected. When this amount is divided by the projected 2012 flows of 425,181.9 Mcf, the resulting PSTAC rate, prior to compression, is \$21.695 per Mcf. This represents an increase of \$7.49 or 1.55% on the average residential customer's annual sewerage bill.

The Volumetric Treatment Charge of \$21.695 assumes an implementation date of January 1, 2012. If a Board Order is effective as of June 23, 2012, it means that the 2012 PSTAC will only be recovered over 192 days rather than 366 days. As a result, the PSTAC Charge for 2012 will be compressed to a charge of \$22.425 per Mcf from the current PSTAC charge of \$20.890 per Mcf. This represents an increase of \$1.535 per Mcf. If the Board should act on this matter after June 23, 2012, the charge may, if deemed necessary by the Parties, be further compressed in order to recover the appropriate amount. Beginning January 1, 2013, the uncompressed PSTAC charge of \$21.695 per Mcf shall become effective resulting in a decrease of \$0.730 per Mcf from the compressed charge. The Company shall make a compliance filing with the Board effective January 1, 2013, incorporating this rate change.

The Petitioner shall account for net cumulative over-recoveries and under-recoveries resulting from the PSTAC. These over-recoveries or under-recoveries will be charged or credited to the PSTAC in subsequent PSTAC proceedings. The net monthly cumulative over-recoveries and under-recoveries shall be calculated for each month, utilizing an average balance for each month. Interest on net cumulative monthly over-recoveries shall be credited to the PSTAC at an interest rate equal to the return on rate base of 7.09%, established in the Petitioner's last base rate proceeding, BPU Docket No. WR11040247, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:9-8.3 (c) and N.J.A.C. 14:3-13.3. Similarly, interest on net monthly under-recoveries shall be charged against the PSTAC. Petitioner has another base rate case completed while this PSTAC is in effect, the return on rate base utilized in that base rate case shall become the interest rate on net monthly cumulative over-recoveries or under-recoveries, on a prospective basis. If, as of December 31, 2012, interest shall be due the PSTAC, such interest shall in fact be credited to the PSTAC. If, as of December 31, 2012, interest shall be chargeable against the PSTAC, said interest shall be eliminated through appropriate accounting entries.

¹ Although described in the Order at some length, should there be any conflict between this summary and the Stipulation, the terms of the Stipulation control, subject to the findings and conclusions in this Order.

Having reviewed the record in this matter, including ALJ W. Todd Miller's Initial Decision and the Stipulation, the Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> that the Parties have voluntarily agreed to the Stipulation and that the Stipulation fully disposes of all issues in these proceedings and is consistent with the law. The Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> the Initial Decision which adopts the Stipulation to be reasonable, in the public interest and in accordance with law. Therefore, the Board <u>HEREBY ADOPTS</u> the Initial Decision and the Stipulation, attached hereto, including all attachments and schedules, as its own, incorporating by reference the terms and conditions of the Stipulation as if fully set forth herein, subject to the following:

In accordance with the provisions of <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:9-7.4 and this Order, the Petitioner shall file with the Board, no later than 45 days after the adjustment clause has been in effect for one year, a PSTAC true-up schedule in connection with this proceeding. Copies of the true-up schedules shall be served upon all parties to the present proceeding.

The Board <u>HEREBY</u> <u>APPROVES</u> the amount to be recovered through the PSTAC of \$9,224,531.

The Board would note that Petitioner is authorized to provide service within a certain portion of the City of Brigantine and that in order to provide that service, when requested, the facilities of the Brigantine Municipal Utilities Authority will be necessary. Under "Volumetric Treatment Charge" contained on Original Sheet No. 13 of Petitioner's tariff, in addition to fixed charges and volumetric collection charges, all customers shall pay for sewerage treatment costs assessed to Atlantic City Sewerage Company by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority. The Board FURTHER DIRECTS Petitioner to submit a revised sheet indicating that customers shall pay for sewerage treatment costs assessed by "... the relevant treating wastewater facility."

PRESIDENT

This Order shall be effective on June 23, 2012.

DATED: 6/18/12

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

Vame Mitos

OMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY

(rist object

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY TO CHANGE THE LEVELS OF ITS PURCHASED SEWERAGE TREATMENT ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE BPU DOCKET NO. WR12020119 OAL DOCKET NO. PUC-02125-2012S

SERVICE LIST

Ira G. Megdal, Esq. Cozen O'Connor 457 Haddonfield Road Suite 300 Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Louis M. Walters, President Atlantic City Sewerage 1200 Atlantic Avenue Suite 300 PO Box 1830 Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq. Debra F. Robinson, Esq. Christine Juarez, Esq. Division of Rate Counsel 31 Clinton St., 11th Floor Newark, NJ 07101

Geoffrey Gersten, Esq. Carolyn McIntosh, Esq. Division of Law 124 Halsey Street PO Box 45029 Newark, NJ 07101



INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 2125-12 AGENCY DKT. NO. WR12020119

I/M/O THE PETITION OF ATLANTIC
CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY TO
CHANGE THE LEVEL OF ITS
PURCHASED SEWERAGE TREATMENT
ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE.

Ira G. Megdal, Esq., and Stacy A. Mitchell, Esq., for petitioner (Cozen O'Connor)

Christine M. Juarez, Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, on behalf of the Division of Rate Counsel (Stefanie A. Brand, Director)

Carolyn McIntosh, Deupty Attorney General, on behalf of Staff of the Board of Public Utilities (Jeffrey S. Chiesa, Attorney General of New Jersey, attorney)

Record Closed: June 11, 2012 Decided: June 11, 2012

BEFORE W. TODD MILLER, ALJ:

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on February 17, 2012, for determination as a contested case, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to -15 and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 to -13.

The parties have agreed to a settlement and have prepared a Settlement Agreement indicating the terms thereof, which is attached and fully incorporated herein.

I have reviewed the record and the terms of settlement and I FIND:

- 1. The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures or their representatives' signatures.
- 2. The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with the law.

I CONCLUDE that this agreement meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1 and that the settlement should be approved. I approve the settlement and therefore ORDER that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings be concluded.

I hereby FILE my initial decision with the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

	No y acco
June 11, 2012	
DATE	W. TODD MILLER, ALJ
Date Received at Agency:	
Date Mailed to Parties:	
/sd	

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF :

BPU DOCKET NO. WR12020119

THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE

COMPANY TO CHANGE THE LEVEL

OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 02125-2012S

OF ITS PURCHASED SEWERAGE

TREATMENT ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE

STIPULATION

APPEARANCES:

Ira G. Megdal, Esquire and Stacy A. Mitchell, Esquire, (Cozen O'Connor, attorneys) for The Atlantic City Sewerage Company, Petitioner

Christine M. Juarez, Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel, on behalf of the Division of Rate Counsel (Stefanie A. Brand, Director)

Carolyn McIntosh, Deputy Attorney General, (Jeffrey S. Chiesa, Attorney General of New Jersey), on behalf of the Staff of the Board of Public Utilities

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

- 1. The Atlantic City Sewerage Company ("ACSC", "Company" or "Petitioner"), a public utility company of the State of New Jersey, operates a sewerage collection and transmission system within its defined service territory, consisting of the City of Atlantic City, New Jersey. Within its service territory, Petitioner serves approximately 7,703 customers. Petitioner purchases its sewage treatment from the Atlantic County Utilities Authority ("ACUA").
- 2. On February 6, 2012, the Company filed a Petition to Change the Level of its Purchased Sewerage Treatment Adjustment Clause ("PSTAC"), pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 14:9-8.1, et seq. The matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") on February 17, 2012 for hearing as a contested case. The proceeding was assigned Docket No. WR12020119 by the Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or the "Board") and Docket

No. PUC 02125-2012S by the OAL. Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") W. Todd Miller was assigned to the case.

- 3. The Parties to this proceeding include the Staff of the Board of Public Utilities ("Staff") and the Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel"). There were no Interveners to this proceeding. Discovery was propounded by the Staff and Rate Counsel and answered in full by the Company.
- 4. In its Petition, ACSC proposed to raise its Volumetric Treatment Charge effective January 1, 2012.
- 5. After appropriate public notice, a public hearing was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey on June 4, 2012, presided over by the Honorable W. Todd Miller, A.L.J. No members of the public appeared at the public hearing.
- 6. ACSC does not treat any sewage. Rather, ACSC is solely engaged in the collection and transmission of sewage within the City of Atlantic City. All of the sewage collected and transmitted by ACSC is treated by the ACUA. ACSC does not earn a profit on the amount collected in the PSTAC.
- 7. ACSC does not meter sewage flows, but bills its customers on the basis of water entering its customers' premises. ACSC is furnished data regarding water entering its customers' premises by the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority ("ACMUA"), the entity purveying water within the City of Atlantic City. Each year, ACSC bills its customers (other than certain large volume customers) based on water consumption during the prior year.

- 8. The Petition filed herein was based upon projected consumption by customers for the billing cycles of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, based upon actual 2011 consumption.
- 9. Petitioner's PSTAC rate is implemented through the use of its Volumetric Treatment Charge. In its initial filing, Petitioner sought to increase its Volumetric Treatment Charge from its current level of \$20.890 per Mcf of metered water, to a rate of \$21.695 per Mcf of metered water, prior to compression. The initial filing was based on estimates, preliminary in nature, and was updated as the case progressed.
- 10. The amount to be recovered through the PSTAC is \$9,224,531. This reflects 2012 charges from the ACUA of \$9,178,411, consisting of \$8,859,663 in 2012 treatment charges and \$318,748 of 2012 charges relating to 2011 treatment volumes. The amount to be recovered through the PSTAC also includes an under-recovery for 2011 of \$38,120 and projected regulatory costs (after 50/50 sharing between ratepayers and shareholders) of \$8,000. The amount of \$9,224,531 is to be recovered in 2012 through the Volumetric Treatment Charge, which is the rate through which the PSTAC is affected. When this amount is divided by the projected 2012 flows of 425,181.9 Mcf, the resulting PSTAC rate, prior to compression, is \$21.695 per Mcf. This represents an increase of \$7.49 or 1.55% on the average residential customer's annual sewerage bill.
- The Volumetric Treatment Charge of \$21.695 assumes an implementation date of January 1, 2012. If a Board Order is effective as of June 23, 2012, it means that the 2012 PSTAC will only be recovered over 192 days, rather than 366 days. As a result, the PSTAC charge for 2012 will be compressed to a charge of \$22.425 per Mcf from the current PSTAC

charge of \$20.890 per Mcf as portrayed in Exhibit "A". This represents an increase of \$1.535 per Mcf. If the Board should act on this matter after June 23, 2012, the charge may, if deemed necessary by the Parties, be further compressed in order to recover the appropriate amount.

- 12. Beginning January 1, 2013, the uncompressed PSTAC charge of \$21.695 per Mcf shall become effective resulting in a decrease of \$0.730 per Mcf from the compressed charge.

 Tariff sheets reflecting the uncompressed charge are attached hereto as Exhibit "B". The

 Company shall make a compliance filing with the Board effective January 1, 2013 incorporating this rate change.
- resulting from the PSTAC. These over-recoveries or under-recoveries will be charged or credited to the PSTAC in subsequent PSTAC proceedings. The net monthly cumulative over-recoveries and under-recoveries shall be calculated for each month, utilizing an average balance for each month. Interest on net cumulative monthly over-recoveries shall be credited to the PSTAC at an interest rate equal to the return on rate base of 7.09%, established in ACSC's last base rate proceeding, BPU Docket No. WR11040247, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:9-8.3(c) and N.J.A.C. 14:3-13.3. Similarly, interest on net monthly under-recoveries shall be charged against the PSTAC. If Petitioner has another base rate case completed while this PSTAC is in effect, the return on rate base utilized in that base rate case shall become the interest rate on net monthly cumulative over-recoveries or under-recoveries, on a prospective basis. If, as of December 31, 2012, interest shall be due the PSTAC, such interest shall in fact be credited to the PSTAC. If, as of December 31, 2012, interest shall be chargeable against the PSTAC, said interest shall be eliminated through appropriate accounting entries.

- 14. All customers will be notified, through a billing insert, of the increase to Volumetric Treatment Charge brought about by the PSTAC. ACSC will issue a bill insert that reflects the difference between the annual amount due based upon the old rate and the annual amount due at the new rate. The Notice to Customers shall be subject to approval by Staff and Rate Counsel.
- 15. Attached hereto as Exhibit "C" are tariff sheets, giving effect to the Volumetric Treatment Charge stipulated in this Stipulation. The Parties hereto agree that said tariff sheets are just and reasonable, and should be accepted by the Board, effective June 23, 2012, or as soon thereafter as the Board may issue an order accepting same. The Signatory Parties further acknowledge that any increase or resolution of any issue agreed to in this Stipulation, shall become effective upon service of the Board Order on all parties of record unless a later date is indicated in the Order
- 16. This Stipulation shall be binding on the Parties on approval of the Board. This Stipulation shall bind the Parties in this matter only and shall have no precedential value.
- 17. This Stipulation contains terms, each of which is interdependent with the others and essential in its own right to the signing of this Stipulation. Each term is vital to the agreement as a whole, since the Parties expressly and jointly state that they would not have signed the agreement has any term been modified in any way. Since the Parties have compromised in numerous areas, each is entitled to certain procedures in the event that any modifications whatsoever are made to this Stipulation.
- 18. If any modification is made to the terms of this Stipulation, the Signatory Parties each must be given the right to be placed in the position it was in before the Stipulation was

entered into. It is essential that each Party be given the option, before the implementation of any new rate resulting from any modification of this Stipulation, either to modify its own position to accept the proposed changes, or to resume the proceeding as if no agreement had been reached.

19. The Parties believe that these procedures are fair to all concerned, and therefore, they are made an integral and essential element of this Stipulation.

THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY JEFFREY S. CHIESA ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE NEW JERSEY **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** By: Carolyn McIntosh Deputy Attorney General STEFANIE A. BRAND DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL Christine M. Juarez, Esq. Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel 6/6/12 Dated:

entered into. It is essential that each Party be given the option, before the implementation of any new rate resulting from any modification of this Stipulation, either to modify its own position to accept the proposed changes, or to resume the proceeding as if no agreement had been reached.

19. The Parties believe that these procedures are fair to all concerned, and therefore, they are made an integral and essential element of this Stipulation.

THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY

Ву:				
- ,	Stacy A	Mitchell,	Esquire	

JEFFREY S. CHIESA ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

By: Carolyn McIntosh
Deputy Attorney General

STEFANIE A. BRAND DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

By: ______ Christine M. Juarez, Esq.
Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel

Dated: 6/6/12

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The Parties believe that these procedures are fair to all concerned, and therefore, 19. they are made an integral and essential element of this Stipulation.

THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY

Ву:		
•	Stacy A. Mitchell, Esquire	

JEFFREY S. CHIESA ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE NEW JERSEY **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Carolyn McIntosh

Deputy Attorney General

STEFANIE A. BRAND DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

Christine M. Juarez, Esq.

Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel

Dated: 6/6/12

EXHIBIT "A"

THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY 2012 PSTAC RATE CALCULATIONS

	Amount
2012 Annual PSTAC Rate	21.695
Current PSTAC Rate	20.890
Annual Rate Increase	805

COMPRESSED RATE CALCULATION

Annual Rate Increase	Amount .805
times Number of Days	366
Weighted Rate Increase	<u>294.630</u>
Weighted Rate Increase divided by Number of Days	294.630 192
(assume June 23, 2012 Effective) Compressed Rate Increase	<u>1.535</u>
Current PSTAC Rate	20.890
Compressed Rate Increase	1.535
NEW 2012 PSTAC RATE (assume June 23, 2012 Effective)	<u>22.425</u>



Applie ble In

THE CITY OF AT ANTIC CITY

KSEY

Date of Issue:

February 6, 2012

Issued by:

LOUIS M. WALTERS, President & General Manager

1200 Atlantic Avenue Atlantic City, New Jersey Effective for Service rendered on and after January 1, 2013

Filed Pursuant to Decision and Order of the Board of Public Utilities in Docket No. WR12020119 dated June 18, 2012.

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Total Annual

Size

SCHEDULE OF RATES

Annual Rates

Fixed Charge

All customers shall pay the following annual fixed charge, based on size of the water meter used in the rendering of water service:

Of Meter	Fixed Larg
5/8"	\$227
3/4	394
1	
1-1/2	2,8
2	5.559
3	3,691
4	27,368
6	68,077
8	136,281
10 or larg	217,576

Volumetric collection Charge

feet of maned water, measured to the parest one-tenth.

Volumetric Treatment Charge

In addition to be appeal fixed charge and the volumetric collection charge, all customers shall pay \$21.695 for each 1,000 cubic feet of metered water, measured to the nearest one-tenth, for sewerage treatment costs assessed the Company by the relevant treating wastewater facility.

Date of Issue:

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LOUIS M. WALTERS, President & General Manager

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EXHIBIT "C"

THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY B.P.U. NO. 8 – SEWER

SECOND REVISED SHEET NO. 1

TARIFF

FOR

SEWERAGE SERVICE

Applicable In THE CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY NEW JERSEY

Date of Issue:

February 6, 2012

Issued by:

LOUIS M. WALTERS, President & General Manager

1200 Atlantic Avenue Atlantic City, New Jersey Effective for Service rendered on and after June 23, 2012

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SCHEDULE OF RATES

Annual Rates

Fixed Charge

All customers shall pay the following annual fixed charge, based on the size of the water meter used in the rendering of water service:

Size Of Meter	Total Annual <u>Fixed Charge</u>
5/8"	\$227
	394
	1,169
	2,8 11
	5,559
3	13,691
4	
	68,077
	136,281
	217,576

Volumetric Collection Charge

In addition to the annual fixed charge, all customers shall pay \$6.506 for each 1,000 cubic feet of metered water, measured to the nearest one-tenth.

Volumetric Treatment Charge

In addition to the annual fixed charge and the volumetric collection charge, all customers shall pay \$22.425 for each 1,000 cubic feet of metered water, measured to the nearest one-tenth, for sewerage treatment costs assessed the Company by the relevant treating wastewater facility.

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