Agenda Date: 10/4/12 Agenda Item: VB



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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PINELANDS WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN ITS RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES)	ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE
	í	DOCKET NO. WR12080734

Parties of Record:

Kenneth J. Quinn, Esq. for Pinelands Water Company, Petitioner **Stefanie A. Brand, Esq.**, Director, Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On August 10, 2012, Pinelands Water Company ("Pinelands" or "Petitioner"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Middlesex Water Company ("Middlesex"), a New Jersey corporation and public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") filed a Petition pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11, 14:1-5.12 et seq., seeking to increase its base water rates in the amount of \$154,806 or 26.38% above its proposed proforma revenues. The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on October 1, 2012. 1

Pineland's serves approximately 2,400 retail water customers in the Township of Southampton, Burlington County, New Jersey.

According to the petition, Pinelands seeks the increase to support capital improvement programs. The additional revenues are requested to enable 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.

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 On September 20, 2012, the Company submitted an email stating that it will not implement the proposed rates until October 15, 2012.

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until February 1, 2013, unless the Board prior to that date makes a determination disposing of the petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (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 (9 Quakerbridge Plaza, P. O. Box 049, Trenton, NJ 08625) 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, serve 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 the affected municipality, the clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the 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 Order may be made simultaneously. Proof of service of this Order shall be filed with the Board within fifteen (15) days of the date of this Order.

This Order shall be effective on October 14, 2012.

DATED: 10/4/12

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

ROBERT M. HANN

PRESIDENT

TEANNE M. FOX COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER *YUU-YUU- / TOC* WARY-ANNA HOLDEN

OSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

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

in the fil Utilities

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PINELANDS WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES BPU DOCKET NO. WR12080734 SERVICE LIST

A Bruce O'Connor, Vice President Kenneth J. Quinn, Esq. Pinelands Water Company 1500 Ronson Road Iselin, NJ 08830

Stephen B. Genzer, Esq. Saul Ewing One Riverfront Plaza, Suite 1520 Newark, NJ 07102-5426

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director Division of Rate Counsel 31 Clinton Street, 11th Floor P.O. Box 46005 Newark, NJ 07101

Veronica Beke, DAG
Alex Moreau, DAG
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street, 5th floor
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, NJ 07101

Maria Moran, Director Michael Kammer, Bureau Chief NJ Board of Public Utilities Division of Water 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625