Agenda Date: 2/20/13 Agenda Item: VC



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 PINELANDS WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN ITS RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES))))	ORDER FURTHER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN WATER SERVICE DOCKET NO. WR12080734
	,	DOCKET NO. WK 12000/34

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, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11, 14:1-5.12, et seq. Pinelands Water Company ("Petitioner" or "Company"), 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 seeking to increase its base water rates in the amount of \$154,806 or 26.38% above its proposed proforma revenues.

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

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.

On October 4, 2012, the Board issued its first Order suspending the Company's proposed rate increase until February 1, 2013¹.

¹ On February 11, 2013, Petitioner submitted correspondence confirming that it would not increase its rates pending the effective date of this further suspension order.

In light of the fact that this proceeding was not resolved before February 1, 2013 and that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until June 1, 2013, 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 (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 to 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 Suspension 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 February 24, 2013.

DATED: 2/20/13

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

NNE M. FOX

COMMISSIONER

-JØSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within and at is a true copy of the origina

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BPU DOCKET NO. WR12080734

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