



Agenda Date: 06/29/16
Agenda Item: VA

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES)	ORDER FURTHER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE
)	
)	BPU DOCKET NO. WR16010089
)	OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 02353-2016S

Parties of Record:

Stephen B. Genzer, Esq., Saul Ewing, LLP, Aqua New Jersey, Inc.
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On January 29, 2016, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, N.J.A.C. 14:9-10.1 and other related statutes and regulations, Aqua New Jersey, Inc. ("Aqua", "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 \$2,535,564 or 6.69%. The increase in rates was proposed to become effective on March 4, 2016. Aqua services approximately 51,000 water customers located in several municipalities in Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer, Burlington, Monmouth, Camden, Ocean, Sussex, Gloucester and Atlantic Counties, New Jersey.¹

According to the petition, Aqua seeks the increase to maintain a satisfactory credit position, preserve its financial integrity, permit proper maintenance and improvement of the utility plant required to furnish safe, adequate and proper service to its customers, encourage good effective management and provide incentives for efficiency, prevent confiscation or diminution of its property, and to earn a reasonable return upon the fair value of its property used and useful in the public service.

On February 9, 2016, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law for hearings and on March 4, 2016, the Board issued an Order suspending the Company's proposed rate increase until July 4, 2016.

¹ The Company is engaged in the wastewater collection, treatment, and transmission business and currently serves a total of approximately 5,230 wastewater customers via several independent, stand-alone wastewater systems. Rates for wastewater service are not the subject of this petition.

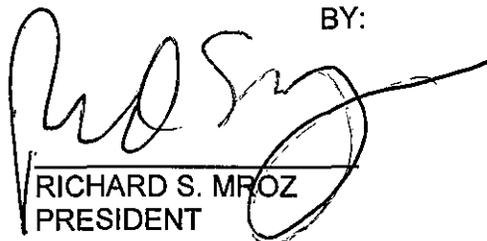
In light of the fact that this matter will not be completed by July 4, 2016, and that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are further suspended until November 4, 2016, 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 (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 serve copies of this Order upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Division of Rate Counsel (140 East Front Street, 4th Floor, Post Office Box 003, Trenton, N.J. 08625, 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 each 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.

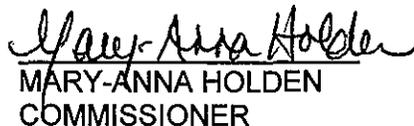
The effective date of this Order shall be July 9, 2016.

DATED: 6/29/16

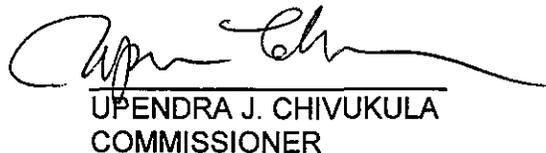
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


RICHARD S. MROZ
PRESIDENT

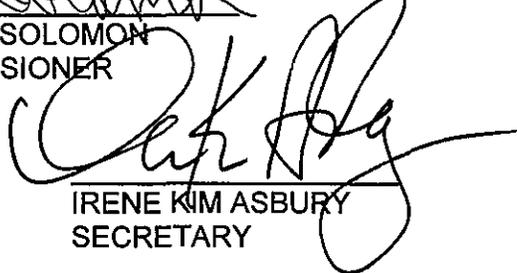

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER


MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER

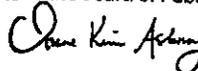

DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER


UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


IRENE KIM ASBURY
SECRETARY

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



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