



Agenda Date: 5/8/19

Agenda Item: VB

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 PINELANDS WASTEWATER)	ORDER SUSPENDING
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN ITS)	INCREASES, CHANGES OR
RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF)	ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR
CHANGES)	WATER SERVICE
)	
)	BPU DOCKET NO. WR19030418

Parties of Record:

Jay L. Kooper, Esq., General Counsel, Pinelands Water Company, Petitioner
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On April 1, 2019, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Pinelands Wastewater Company ("Pinelands Wastewater, Company, or Petitioner"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey, with its principal business office located at 485C Route One South, Suite 400, Iselin, New Jersey 08830, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), filed a petition for authority to increase its base tariff rates and charges for wastewater service amounting to approximately \$482,969 or 39.22%. The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on April 29, 2018.¹ Pinelands Wastewater serves approximately 2,400 customers in portions of Southampton Township ("Township"), Burlington County, including contract service for part of the Township itself.

According to the petition, base rate relief is necessary for the following reasons: (1) to establish an income level which will permit the Company to finance essential and continuing plant investment; (2) to permit Petitioner to earn a fair and adequate rate of return on its net investment in used and useful property; (3) to establish rates which will be sufficient to enable the Company, under efficient and economical operation, to maintain and support financial integrity and to raise such funds as may be necessary for the proper discharge of its public duties; (4) to offset increases in operating expenses experienced, and to be experienced, by the Company in the course of its operations; (5) to provide earnings sufficient to attract investors and provide sufficient cash flow to fund the Company's operations; and (6) to enable the Company to provide safe, adequate and proper service to its customers.

¹ By letter dated April 11, 2018, the Company indicated that it will not implement rates on an interim basis prior to the effective date of the Board's initial suspension order in this matter. However, the Company noted that it intended to implement the proposed rates at the conclusion of the second suspension period on December 31, 2019, should the Board not issue a final Decision and Order by that date.

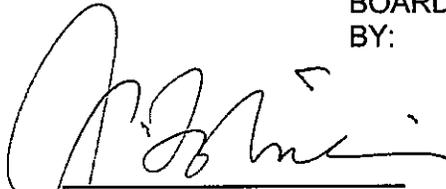
It appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

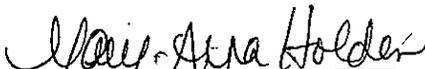
- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until August 29, 2019, unless the Board prior to that date, makes a determination disposing of the petition, or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) Petitioner shall, at least 10 days prior to 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, NJ 08625-0003), the clerk of the affected municipalities, 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 this petition, notice of hearings and this Order may be made simultaneously. Proof of service of the Order shall be filed with the Board within 15 days of the date of this Order.

This Order shall be effective on May 18, 2019.

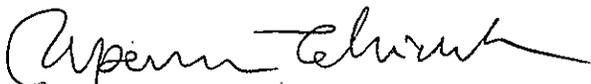
DATED: 5/8/19

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:

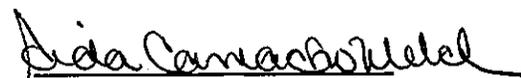

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT


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DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER


UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER


ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 
AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF PINELANDS WASTEWATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN
INCREASE IN ITS RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES
BPU DOCKET NO. WR19030418

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