

The Petitioner stated that the proposed rate increase is necessary due to expense increases, together with decreased wastewater treatment volumes, that have occurred since the rates were last set in 2019 or will occur shortly.² The expense increases include the costs of power, chemicals, testing requirements, maintenance, security, taxes, insurance, labor and employee benefits. The Company is also engaged in a capital improvement program to maintain and improve safe, adequate and proper service to its customers. The Company claimed that the capital improvements and needed expense increases have improved the quality of service, but have impacted earnings. Further, Petitioner argued that the current rates are inadequate to meet the Company's increased expenses and provide a reasonable return on its investment in the utility plant.

As the proposed revisions, if approved, will increase existing rates and change existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2.21(d), the proposed revisions are suspended until February 7, 2023, unless prior to that date the Board disposes 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 ("OAL"), file with the Board, and with the OAL, proof of compliance with the notice provisions set forth in N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12 (b) and (c), including 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 OAL; the Division of Rate Counsel; the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of the affected county; and, where appropriate, the executive officer of the affected county. 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.

² In re Pinelands Water Company for Approval of an Increase in its Rates for Water Service and other Tariff Changes, Docket No. WR19030417, Order dated October 25, 2019. Although the October 25, 2019 Order identified in the foregoing citation refers to Pinelands Water Company, the October 25, 2019 Order explains that the related matter, In re Pinelands Wastewater Company for Approval of an Increase in Its Rates for Wastewater Service and other Tariff Changes, Docket No. WR19030418, which pertains to the Petitioner here, Pinelands Wastewater Company, was consolidated at the OAL in OAL Docket No. PUC 06559-2019S with the Pinelands Water Company matter. The two matters were resolved together as detailed in the October 25, 2019 Order.

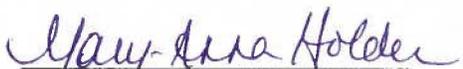
This Order shall be effective on October 5, 2022.

DATED: September 28, 2022

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER



DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER



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

IN THE MATTER OF PINELANDS WASTEWATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN
ITS RATES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES

DOCKET NO.WR22090556

SERVICE LIST

Pinelands Wastewater Company

Jay L. Kooper, Esq.
Middlesex Water Company
485C Route One South, Suite 400
Iselin, NJ 08830
jkooper@middlesex.com

Division of Rate Counsel

140 East Front Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director
blipman@rpa.nj.gov

Susan E, McClure, Esq.
smcclure@rpa.nj.gov

New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety

Public Utilities Section
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
P.O. Box 112
Trenton, NJ 08625

Brandon Simmons, DAG
brandon.simmons@law.njoag.gov

Steven Chaplar, DAG
steven.chaplar@law.njoag.gov

Meliha Arnautovic, DAG
meliha.arnautovic@law.njoag.gov

Terel Klein, DAG
terel.klein@law.njoag.gov

Board of Public Utilities

44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Carmen D. Diaz, Acting Secretary
board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Stacy Peterson, Deputy Executive Director
stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov

Division of Water and Energy

Michael Kammer, Director
michael.kammer@bpu.nj.gov

Yanina Lepore
yanina.lepore@bpu.nj.gov

Kofi Ocansey
kofi.ocansey@bpu.nj.gov

Andrew Tuzzo
andrew.tuzzo@bpu.nj.gov

William Barkasy
william.barkasy@bpu.nj.gov

Counsel's Office

Carol Artale, Esq., Deputy General Counsel
carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov

Michael Hunter
michael.hunter@bpu.nj.gov

David Schmitt, Esq., Legal Specialist
david.schmitt@bpu.nj.gov