

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

|--|

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED JOINT PETITION OF MONTAGUE WATER CO., INC., MONTAGUE SEWER CO., INC., CORIX INFRASTRUCTURE (US) INC., AND SW MERGER ACQUISITION CORP. FOR APPROVAL OF A CHANGE OF CONTROL OF))))	ORDER DESIGNATING COMMISSIONER, SETTING MANNER OF SERVICE AND BAR DATE
MONTAGUE WATER CO., INC. AND MONTAGUE SEWER CO., INC.)	DOCKET NO. WM22110690

Parties of Record:

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel **James H. Laskey, Esq.,** Norris McLaughlin, P.A., for the Montague Water Co., Inc., Montague Sewer Co., Inc. and Corix Infrastructure (US), Inc. **Stephen B. Genzer, Esq.**, Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP for SW Merger Acquisition Corp.

BY THE BOARD:

BACKGROUND

On November 9, 2022, Montague Water Company, Inc. and Montague Sewer Company, Inc. (collectively, "Montague Companies"), together with Corix Infrastructure (US) Inc. ("Corix US") and SW Merger Acquisition Corp. ("SWMAC") (collectively, "Joint Petitioners"), filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting that the Board approve the proposed merger of SWMAC and Corix US ("Joint Petition"). According to the Joint Petitioners, the proposed merger would create a larger, stronger water and wastewater company.

The Montague Companies are regulated public utility corporations engaged in the production, treatment, and distribution of water and collection and disposal of sewage in Montague Township, Sussex County and serve approximately 776 water customers and 268 sewer customers. The proposed transaction does not involve a change in direct control of the regulated Montague Companies or a transfer of the stock of the Montague Companies.¹

Corix US is a corporation, incorporated under the laws of Delaware, owned by Corix Infrastructure Inc. ("CII"). CII, through its operating subsidiaries, owns and operates approximately 385 water,

.

¹ Joint Petition at 2.

310 wastewater, two (2) electricity distribution, one (1) propane, three (3) geothermal, one (1) municipal, and three (3) natural gas distribution systems in the United States and Canada. CII's water and wastewater utilities and related businesses serve over 800,000 people in 18 U.S. states and two (2) Canadian provinces. Corix US indirectly owns 100% of the Montague Companies.²

SWMAC is a Delaware corporation owned by IIF Subway Investment LP ("IIF Subway") and Bazos CIV, L.P. SWMAC owns 100% of SouthWest Water Company ("SouthWest") and through its operating subsidiaries, owns and operates 18 water and wastewater utility companies in the United States which provide service to over 500,000 people in seven (7) U.S. states.³

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Board <u>HEREBY ORDERS</u> that the Joint Petition be retained by the Board for hearing and, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-32, <u>HEREBY DESIGNATES</u> Commissioner Mary-Anna Holden as the Presiding Commissioner with authority to rule on all motions that arise during the pendency of these proceedings and modify any schedules that may be set as necessary to secure a just and expeditious determination of the issues. Further, the Board <u>HEREBY DIRECTS</u> that any entity seeking to intervene or participate in this matter file the appropriate application with the Board by February 25, 2023. Any party wishing to file a motion for admission of counsel, *pro hac vice*, should do so concurrently with any motion to intervene or participate.

In addition, pursuant to the Board's Orders in <u>In re the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities'</u> Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic for a Temporary Waiver of Requirements for Certain Non-Essential Obligations, BPU Docket No. EO20030254 (Orders dated March 19, 2020 and June 10, 2020), all parties are <u>HEREBY DIRECTED</u> to serve all documents electronically. No hard copies shall be filed until the Board lifts the restrictions imposed by the Orders. The Board <u>FURTHER</u> <u>DIRECTS</u> that this Order be posted on the Board's website and served by electronic circulation to the service list.

² Joint Petition at 4.

³ Ibid.

The effective date of this Order is February 1, 2023.

DATED: January 25, 2023

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DIANNE SOLOMON

DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

BY

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

PRESIDENT

MARY ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GORDON COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

CARMEN D. DIAZ ACTING SECRETARY

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 THE VERIFIED JOINT PETITION OF MONTAGUE WATER CO., INC., MONTAGUE SEWER CO., INC., CORIX INFRASTRUCTURE (US) INC., AND SW MERGER ACQUISITION CORP. FOR APPROVAL OF A CHANGE OF CONTROL OF MONTAGUE WATER CO., INC. AND MONTAGUE SEWER CO., INC. DOCKET NO. WM22110690

SERVICE LIST

New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

140 East Front Street, 4th Floor Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

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

Susan McClure, Esq., Managing Attorney smcclure@rpa.nj.gov

Christine Juarez, Esq.' Deputy Rate Counsel cjuarez@rpa.nj.gov

Emily Smithman, Esq. Deputy Rate Counsel esmithman@rpa.nj.gov

Marilyn Silva msilva@rpa.nj.gov

Department of Law and Public Safety

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

Pamela Owen, DAG pamela.owen@law.njoag gov

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

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

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 1st Floor Trenton, NJ 08625-035

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

Michael Beck, General Counsel michael.beck@bpu.nj.gov

Robert Brabston, Esq., Executive Director robert.brabston@bpu.ni.gov

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

Economist's Office

Dr. Benjamin Witherell, Chief Economist ben.witherell@bpu.nj.gov

Jackie O'Grady jackie.ogrady@bpu.nj.gov

Christine Lin christine.lin@bpu.nj.gov

Dianne Crilly dianne.crilly@bpu.nj.gov

Division of Water and Energy

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

Malike Cummings. Deputy Director malike.cummings@bpu.nj.gov

Justin Cederberg justin.cederberg@bpu.nj.gov

Kyle Felton kyle.felton@bpu.nj.gov

Counsel's Office

Michael Beck, General Counsel michael.beck@bpu.nj.gov

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

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

Joint Petitioners

Norris McLaughlin, P.A. 800 Crossing Blvd. 8th Floor P.O. Box 5933 Bridgewater, NJ 08807

James H. Laskey, Esq. <u>jlaskey@norris-law.com</u>

Laura M. Miller, Esq. lmiller@norris-law.com

Steven M. Lubertozzi, Sr. VP North Region Corix Group of Companies 500 W. Monroe Street, Suite 3600 Chicago, IL 60661 smlubertozzi@uiwater.com

Dante DeStefano, Director, Regulatory Affairs Corix Group of Companies dante.destefano@corixgroup.com

Stephen B. Genzer Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP 1037 Raymond Blvd, Suite 1520 Newark, NJ 07102-5426 stephen.genzer@saul.com