



Agenda Date: 2/14/24  
Agenda Item: VA

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350  
[www.nj.gov/bpu/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NEW JERSEY- )  
AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC. FOR APPROVAL )  
OF INCREASED TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR )  
WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE, CHANGE IN )  
DEPRECIATION RATES, AND OTHER TARIFF )  
MODIFICATIONS ) )  
ORDER SUSPENDING )  
INCREASES, CHANGES OR )  
ALTERATIONS IN RATES )  
FOR WATER SERVICE )  
DOCKET NO. WR24010056 )

**Parties of Record:**

**Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel  
**Bruce V. Miller, Esq.**, Cullen and Dykman LLP, on behalf of New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc.

BY THE BOARD:<sup>1</sup>

On January 19, 2024, New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc. (“NJAWC” or “Company”) filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) seeking approval of an increase in its base rates for water and wastewater service of approximately \$161.7 million, or 16.89%, for services rendered on and after February 21, 2024 (“Petition”).

NJAWC is engaged in the production, treatment, and distribution of water and collection of wastewater within its defined service territory within the State of New Jersey. The Company’s service territory includes portions of: Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Union, and Warren counties. As of December 31, 2023, the Company provides service to approximately 668,000 water and fire service customers and 64,200 wastewater service customers.

According to the Petition, the primary driver of the proposed rate increase is the Company’s capital investment to maintain and improve infrastructure and continue to provide safe, reliable, and adequate service to its customers.

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioner Michael Bange recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest and as such took no part in the discussion or deliberation of this matter.

The Company asserted that, in addition to operations and maintenance expenses driven by recent high levels of inflation and supply chain disruptions, its cost of capital increased due to the rise in interest rates driven by the Federal Reserve Board.

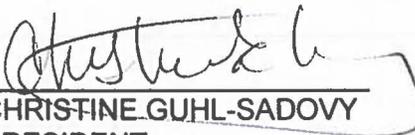
Because the proposed revisions, if approved, will likely increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in NJAWC's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** as follows:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21(d), and consistent with N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, the proposed revisions are suspended until June 21, 2024, unless prior to that date the Board makes a determination disposing of the Petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) NJAWC shall, at least 10 days prior to the date set for hearing on the Petition by the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL"), file with this Board, and with the OAL, 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) NJAWC shall serve copies of this Order upon the OAL, 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 County Commissioners of each 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 Order may be made simultaneously. Proof of service of this Order shall be filed with the Board.

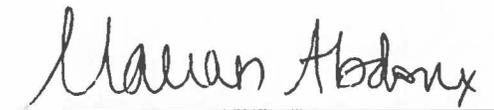
This Order shall be effective on February 14, 2024.

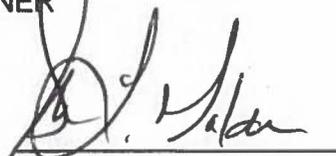
DATED: February 14, 2024

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

  
CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY  
PRESIDENT

  
DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU  
COMMISSIONER

  
MARIAN ABDOU  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:   
SHERRI L. GOLDEN  
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 PETITION OF NEW JERSEY-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF  
INCREASED TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE, CHANGE IN  
DEPRECIATION RATES, AND OTHER TARIFF MODIFICATIONS

BPU DOCKET NO. WR24010056

SERVICE LIST

**New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc.**  
1 Water Street  
Camden, New Jersey 08102

Stephen R. Bishop  
VP, Managing General Counsel and Secretary  
[stephen.bishop@amwater.com](mailto:stephen.bishop@amwater.com)

Christopher M. Arfaa  
Director, Corporate Counsel  
[Chris.arfaa@amwater.com](mailto:Chris.arfaa@amwater.com)

Jamie Hawn  
Director, Rates and Regulatory  
[jamie.hawn@amwater.com](mailto:jamie.hawn@amwater.com)

Donna Carney  
Principal Paralegal  
[donna.carney@amwater.com](mailto:donna.carney@amwater.com)

Cullen and Dykman LLP

Bruce V. Miller, Esq.  
333 Earle Ovington Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Uniondale, NY 11553  
[bmiller@cullenllp.com](mailto:bmiller@cullenllp.com)

Zachary A. Klein, Esq.  
229 Nassau Street  
Princeton, New Jersey 08542  
[zklein@cullenllp.com](mailto:zklein@cullenllp.com)

**Division of Rate Counsel**

140 East Front Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Post Office Box 003  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director  
[blipman@rpa.nj.gov](mailto:blipman@rpa.nj.gov)

Susan McClure, Esq., Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel  
[smcclure@rpa.nj.gov](mailto:smcclure@rpa.nj.gov)

Christine Juarez, Esq.  
[cjuarez@rpa.nj.gov](mailto:cjuarez@rpa.nj.gov)

Emily Lam, Esq.  
[esmithman@rpa.nj.gov](mailto:esmithman@rpa.nj.gov)

Felecia Jackson-Rodgers  
[frodgers@rpa.nj.gov](mailto:frodgers@rpa.nj.gov)

**Board of Public Utilities**

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

Sherri L. Golden, Board Secretary  
[board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)

Stacy Peterson, Deputy Executive Director  
[stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov)

Office of General Counsel

Michael Beck, General Counsel  
[michael.beck@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:michael.beck@bpu.nj.gov)

Carol Artale, Deputy General Counsel  
[carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov)

Michael Hunter, Regulatory Officer  
[michael.hunter@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:michael.hunter@bpu.nj.gov)

Division of Revenue and Rates

Kofi Ocansey  
[kofi.ocansey@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:kofi.ocansey@bpu.nj.gov)

Anthony DeAnni  
[anthony.deanni@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:anthony.deanni@bpu.nj.gov)

Cindy Bianco  
[cindy.bianco@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:cindy.bianco@bpu.nj.gov)

Division of Engineering

Magdy Mekhaeil  
[magdy.mekhaeil@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:magdy.mekhaeil@bpu.nj.gov)

Office of the Chief Economist

Dr. Benjamin Witherell, Chief Economist  
[benjamin.witherell@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:benjamin.witherell@bpu.nj.gov)

**Department of Law and Public Safety**

Division of Law  
Public Utilities Section  
25 Market Street, Post Office Box 112  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Daren Eppley, Section Chief, DAG

[daren.eppley@law.njoag.gov](mailto:daren.eppley@law.njoag.gov)

Pamela Owen, DAG, Assistant Section Chief

[pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov](mailto:pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov)

Meliha Arnautovic, DAG

[meliha.arnautovic@law.njoag.gov](mailto:meliha.arnautovic@law.njoag.gov)

Terel Klein, DAG

[terel.klein@law.njoag.gov](mailto:terel.klein@law.njoag.gov)