



Agenda Date: 9/25/25

Agenda Item: 5A

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER OF MIDDLESEX)	ORDER DESIGNATING
WATER COMPANY, PINELANDS WATER COMPANY)	COMMISSIONER, SETTING
AND PINELANDS WASTEWATER COMPANY)	MANNER OF SERVICE AND
)	BAR DATE
)	
)	DOCKET NO. WM25050284

Parties of Record:

Brian O. Lipman, Esq, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Jay L. Kooper, Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary, Middlesex Water Company

BY THE BOARD:

On May 8, 2025, Middlesex Water Company ("Middlesex Water"), and its direct subsidiaries Pinelands Water Company and Pinelands Wastewater Company (collectively "Pinelands Companies") (together with Middlesex, "Joint Petitioners"), filed a joint petition for with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") seeking approval of a consolidation to be effectuated by a corporate reorganization ("Consolidation") by which the Pinelands Companies would disappear as independent corporate entities and only Middlesex Water would remain as the sole operating utility in New Jersey ("Petition").

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Middlesex Water serves a mix of retail and wholesale customers in New Jersey including approximately 61,000 retail customers in Woodbridge Township, the City of South Amboy, the Boroughs of Metuchen and Carteret, portions of the Township of Edison and the Borough of South Plainfield in Middlesex County, and a portion of the Township of Clark in Union County. Middlesex Water also provides water service under wholesale contracts to the City of Rahway, Townships of Edison and Marlboro, the Borough of Highland Park and the Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority and also treats, stores, and distributes water for residential, commercial, industrial and fire protection purposes as well as providing water treatment and pumping contract services to the Township of East Brunswick. Middlesex Water provides service to approximately 300 customers in the Fortescue system in Cumberland County, New Jersey which is not physically interconnected with Middlesex Water's system but for which Middlesex Water owns and operates water treatment, supply, transmission and distribution systems.

Pinelands Water Company serves approximately 2,500 residential customers in Southampton Township in Burlington County. Pinelands Wastewater Company provides wastewater collection and treatment services to approximately 2,500 residential customers and one municipal wastewater system in Southampton Township in Burlington County.

Petition

By the Petition, the Joint Petitioners asserted that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-51.1, there will be no adverse impact on competition, rates, employees of the affected utilities, or on the provision of safe and adequate service at just and reasonable rates. The Joint Petitioners currently operate as part of the same family of companies under Middlesex Water and will continue to do so post-consolidation. The Joint Petitioners estimated that immediate positive benefits will result to the customers of the Pinelands Companies because any additional costs or investments necessary to provide safe, adequate, and reliable service to those customers would be spread over a larger customer base. The Petition included no provision to change rates; however, Joint Petitioners separately filed a base rate case petition on June 30, 2025.¹

The Joint Petitioners further identified that requests contained in the Joint Petition should result in no adverse impacts because the Joint Petitioners all currently operate as part of the same family of companies, with rates already handled in a centralized manner by Middlesex Water personnel. However, the Joint Petitioners noted that they expect immediate positive benefits that will result to the customers of the Pinelands Companies because any additional costs or investments necessary to provide reliable service to those customers will be spread over a larger customer base. The Joint Petitioners claimed that the actions would also result in no adverse impact on any Joint Petitioner employees because the Joint Petitioner anticipate operations to continue to be handled locally with the same employees performing local functions and employees of other members in the Middlesex Water family of companies performing services for any of the Joint Petitioners will continue to do so. The Joint Petitioners proffered that the reorganization will allow the surviving entity to maintain a strong credit profile and continuing ability to invest in necessary capital and infrastructure projects to ensure the continued provision of safe, adequate, and reliable utility service at just and reasonable rates as well as the financial strength to more easily make the needed investments that a larger entity can provide with a reduced rate impact on the customers of the Pinelands Companies to accomplish the required costs and investments.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Board determines that the Petition should be retained by the Board for hearing. Accordingly, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 48:2-32, the Board **HEREBY DESIGNATES** Commissioner Bange as the presiding commissioner for this matter who is authorized to rule on all motions that arise during the pendency of the proceedings and modify any schedules that may be set as necessary to secure a just and expeditious determination of the issues.

Further, the Board **HEREBY DIRECTS** that any entity seeking to intervene or participate in this matter file the appropriate application with the Board on or before October 15, 2025. Any party wishing to file a motion for admission of counsel, *pro hac vice*, should do so concurrently with any

¹ In re the Joint Petition for an Approval of an Increase in Rates for Water and Wastewater Service and Other Tariff Changes for Middlesex Water Company, Pinelands Water Company and Pinelands Wastewater Company, BPU Docket No. WR25060372.

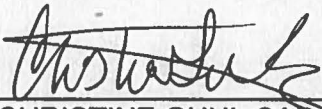
motion to intervene or participate. Any response to motions should be filed no later than October 27, 2025.

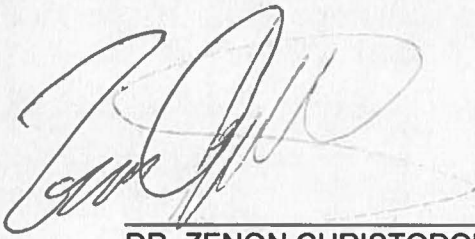
In addition, pursuant to the Board's Orders dated March 19, 2020 and June 10, 2020, the Board **HEREBY DIRECTS** all parties to serve all documents electronically.² No hard copies shall be filed until the Board lifts the restrictions imposed in that Order.

This Order shall be effective on October 2, 2025.

DATED: September 25, 2025

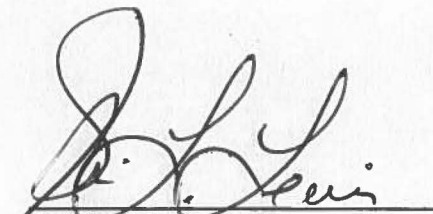
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOWY
PRESIDENT


DR. ZENON CHRISTODOLOU
COMMISSIONER


MICHAEL BANGE
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


SHERRI L. LEWIS
BOARD SECRETARY

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

² In re the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' 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.

IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER OF MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY, PINELANDS WATER
COMPANY AND PINELANDS WASTEWATER COMPANY
DOCKET NO. WM25050824

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