



Agenda Date: 11/21/25
Agenda Item: VA

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 JOINT PETITION FOR AN)	ORDER FURTHER SUSPENDING
APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR)	INCREASES, CHANGES OR
WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE AND)	ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR
OTHER TARIFF CHANGES FOR MIDDLESEX)	WATER SERVICE
WATER COMPANY, PINELANDS WATER)	
COMPANY, AND PINELANDS WASTEWATER)	BPU DOCKET NO. WR25060372
COMPANY)	OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 12680-25S

Parties of Record:

Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Stephen B. Genzer, Esq., Saul Ewing, LLP, on behalf of Middlesex Water Company
Corrine LaCroix Tighe, Esq., Hoagland Longo Moran Dunst & Doukas LLP, on behalf of East Brunswick Township
Michael R. Burns, Esq., Rainone, Coughlin, Minchello, on behalf of Marlboro Township and Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority
George M. Morris, Esq., Parker McCay P.A., on behalf of Township of Southampton
Ted J. Del Guercio, III, Esq., McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, on behalf of Borough of Highland Park

BY THE BOARD:

On June 30, 2025, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C.14:1-5.11, N.J.A.C 14:1-5.12, N.J.A.C 14:9-7.1 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 14:9-10.1 et seq., Middlesex Water Company ("Middlesex"), Pinelands Water Company ("Pinelands Water"), and Pinelands Wastewater Company ("Pinelands Wastewater") (collectively, "Joint Petitioners") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") seeking approval of an increase in base water rates ("Petition").

The Joint Petitioners are all regulated public utilities of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the Board. Middlesex serves approximately 61,000 retail water customers throughout the State of New Jersey. Middlesex also provides wholesale water service to the City of Rahway, the Townships of Edison and Marlboro, the Borough of Highland Park, and the Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority. Middlesex also provides water treatment and pumping services to the Township of East Brunswick.

Pinelands Water and Pinelands Wastewater provide water and wastewater service to approximately 2,500 residential customers in Southampton Township in Burlington County.

Pinelands Water is not physically interconnected with the Middlesex System and Pinelands Wastewater is a stand-alone system.

By the Petition, Joint Petitioners requested Board approval to:

- A. Increase rates to produce additional revenues of approximately \$24,919,160 or approximately 19.31% above the annual level of present rate revenues for the test year period ending October 31, 2025, utilizing a return on equity of 10.50%;
- B. Implement a unified tariff reflecting the consolidation of the Joint Petitioners into Middlesex with a consolidated rate structure;
- C. Implement the depreciation rates, and resulting depreciation expense, identified in a depreciation study prepared by the Joint Petitioners; and
- D. Utilize the results of a comprehensive cost of service study as a basis when setting rates in this matter.

By Order dated July 16, 2025, the Board suspended the proposed rates until December 1, 2025.¹ This matter was subsequently transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for hearings as a contested case and assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Jacob S. Gertsman. On September 19, 2025, ALJ Gertsman granted motions to intervene in this matter filed by the Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority, Township of East Brunswick, the Township of Marlboro, the Township of Southampton, and the Borough of Highland Park.

On September 26, 2025, the Joint Petitioners updated the Petition to include nine (9) months of actual information and three (3) months of estimated information ("9+3 Update"). By the 9+3 Update, the requested revenue requirement was modified to \$24,287,974.

Because a review of this matter will not be complete on or before December 1, 2025, and the proposed revisions, if approved, will likely increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in the Joint Petitioners' tariffs, the Board **HEREBY ORDERS** 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 April 1, 2026 unless, prior to that date, the Board makes a determination disposing of the Petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) The Joint Petitioners shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing on the Petition by the 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

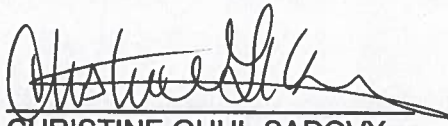
¹ In re the Joint Petition for an Approval of an Increase in Rates for Water and Wastewater Service and Other Tariff Changes for Middlesex Water Company, Pinelands Water Company, and Pinelands Wastewater Company, BPU Docket No. WR25060372, Order dated July 16, 2025.

- (3) The Joint Petitioners shall serve copies of this Order upon the OAL, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel, 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. Proof of service of this Order shall be filed with the Board.

This Order shall be effective on November 28, 2025.

DATED: November 21, 2025


BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY
PRESIDENT


DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU
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.

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT PETITION FOR AN APPROVL 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
OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 12680-25S

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