



**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/)

REVENUE AND RATES

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES ) ORDER SUSPENDING ) INCREASES, CHANGES OR ) ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR ) WATER SERVICE ) ) DOCKET NO. WR26010017

**Parties of Record:**

**Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel  
**Courtney L. Schultz, Esq.**, Saul Ewing LLP, on behalf of Aqua New Jersey, Inc.

BY THE BOARD:

On January 30, 2026, Aqua New Jersey, Inc. (“Aqua” 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 service of approximately \$6,015,030 and an increase in its base rates for wastewater services of \$1,870,503, for services rendered on and after March 1, 2026 (“Petition”).<sup>1</sup>

Aqua is engaged in the business of collecting, treating, and distributing water for retail service to approximately Aqua is engaged in the business of collecting, treating, and distributing water for retail service to approximately 56,450 customers and collecting, transmitting, and treating wastewater for approximately 7,050 customers. The Company’s customers are located in several municipalities in Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Burlington, Monmouth, Camden, Ocean, Sussex, Gloucester, and Atlantic Counties, New Jersey.

According to the Petition, the Company’s request is driven by several factors including: continuing increases in operating and maintenance expenses; increasing costs related to regulatory, legal, and environmental requirements that are not reflected in currently approved base rates; and the

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<sup>1</sup> By letter dated February 9, 2026, the Company notified the Board that it would not implement the proposed rate increase, on an interim basis, prior to the effective date of the Board’s Initial Suspension Order for this matter.

growing capital investments required to continue to provide safe, adequate, and proper water and wastewater service.

The Company asserted that present rates for water service are not adequate to meet its increased expenses, support Aqua's required capital improvement programs, and provide the Company with a reasonable return on its investment in utility plant.

Among other requests, Aqua seeks authorization to:

- a. Increase rates to produce additional water revenues of approximately \$6,015,030 above the annual level of present rate revenues for the test year period ending April 30, 2026 [and inclusive of the Distribution System Improvement Charge ("DSIC") and the Lead Service Line Replacement Charge ("LSLR") surcharges implemented during the test year period], utilizing a return on equity of 10.50%;
- b. Increase rates to produce additional wastewater revenues of approximately \$1,870,503 above the annual level of present rate revenues for the test year period ending April 30, 2026 [and inclusive of the Purchased Sewerage Treatment Adjustment Clause ("PSTAC") surcharge implemented during the test year period], utilizing a return on equity of 10.50%;
- c. To reset to zero its current DSIC, include those investments in rate base, determine that all charges imposed are final and not subject to refund, and approve a new DSIC Foundational Filing;
- d. To reset to zero any Resiliency and Environmental System Investment Charge ("RESIC") that may be implemented during the pendency of this proceeding, determine that any such charges are final and not subject to refund, and approve a new RESIC Foundational Filing;
- e. To approve the Company's recovery of customer-side LSLR costs through its LSLR Surcharge, as provided in its LSLR Plan Update;
- f. To reset the Company's current PSTAC rate;
- g. To approve the Company's proposal to provide a one (1)-time bill credit to water and wastewater customers to provide a refund to customers of certain overcharges related to the State's overcollection of the Gross Receipts, Excise and Franchise Taxes; and
- h. To revise the Company's water and wastewater tariffs to reflect the proposed rate increases, including a continuation of its approach to equalizing certain rates, including rates for Public Fire Service.

Because the proposed revisions, if approved, will likely increase existing rates, and change or alter existing classifications in the Aqua'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 July 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) Aqua shall, at least ten (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) Aqua 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 March 4, 2026.

DATED: March 4, 2026

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

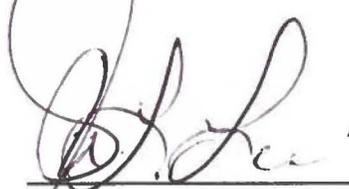
  
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COMMISSIONER

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 PETITION OF AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES  
FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES

BPU DOCKET NO. WR26010017

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