



Agenda Date: 3/18/26  
Agenda Item: 9E

**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/)

ECONOMIST'S OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT PETITION OF VEOLIA )	ORDER DESIGNATING
WATER NEW JERSEY, INC. AND LAKE LENAPE )	COMMISSIONER, SETTING
WATER CO. FOR AUTHORIZATION (i) FOR LAKE )	MANNER OF SERVICE AND
LENAPE WATER CO. TO DISCONTINUE UTILITY )	BAR DATE
SERVICE AND SELL UTILITY ASSETS; AND (ii) FOR )	
VEOLIA WATER NEW JERSEY, INC. TO ACQUIRE )	
CONTROL OF LAKE LENAPE WATER CO.'S UTILITY )	
ASSETS AND EXPAND ITS SERVICE AREA RELATED )	
TO THE ACQUISITION OF ASSETS )	DOCKET NO. WM25120650

**Parties of Record:**

**Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel  
**Brian Yarzab, Esq., Corporate Counsel**, Veolia Water Management & Services (Paramus), Inc.  
**Adam B. Kaufman, Esq.**, on behalf of Lake Lenape Water Company

BY THE BOARD:

On December 19, 2025, Veolia Water New Jersey, Inc. ("VWNJ") and Lake Lenape Water Co. ("LLWC") (together, "Joint Petitioners") filed a joint petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), seeking approval of VWNJ's acquisition of control of LLWC's assets and to expand VWNJ's franchise area pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-14, -24, -51.1, and 48:3-7, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.5, -5.6, and -5.14 ("Joint Petition").

**BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

VWNJ is engaged in the business of collecting, treating, and distributing water for retail and wholesale customers and wastewater service to approximately 275,000 customers located in portions of Bergen, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren counties.

LLWC currently owns and operates a public drinking water system ("Water System") that serves 358 water customers located in the Township of Andover in Sussex County.

According to the Petition, the Joint Petitioners entered into an Agreement of Sale on September 11, 2025, which provides for VWNJ to purchase the assets of the Water System for a purchase price of \$500,000.00. The Water System is not currently within VWNJ's existing franchise area,

therefore, VWNJ seeks to expand its franchise area in order to serve customers in and own and operate the Water System.

VWNJ proposed that it be authorized to continue to charge LLWC customers their existing rates until VWNJ files its next base rate proceeding. Additionally, LLWC requests approval to discontinue service to customers as of the day of closing of the sale, at which time VWNJ will provide service to all of LLWC's existing customers.

The Joint Petitioners asserted that the expansion of VWNJ's service territory will not impose any negative impacts on current VWNJ customers of VWNJ's ability to provide safe and adequate service. The Joint Petitioners stated that the franchise expansion and transfer will allow VWNJ to use its knowledge, expertise, and access to capital to operate the Water System in a way that will ensure safe and dependable service to its customers, and moderate future rate impacts. The franchise expansion and transfer will also result in operational and administrative efficiencies and enable VWNJ to maintain economies of scale as LLWC's former customers and assets are integrated into VWNJ's system.

### **DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

The Board has determined that the Petition should be retained for hearing. Accordingly, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 48:2-32, the Board **HEREBY DESIGNATES** Commissioner Reborn as the presiding commissioner for the Joint Petition, who is authorized to rule on all motions that arise during the pendency of this proceeding and modify any schedules that may be set as necessary to secure 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 April 8, 2026. 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. Any response to motions should be filed no later than April 22, 2026.

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.<sup>1</sup> No hard copies shall be filed until the Board lifts the restrictions imposed in those Orders.

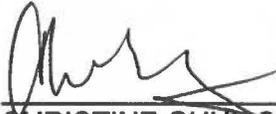
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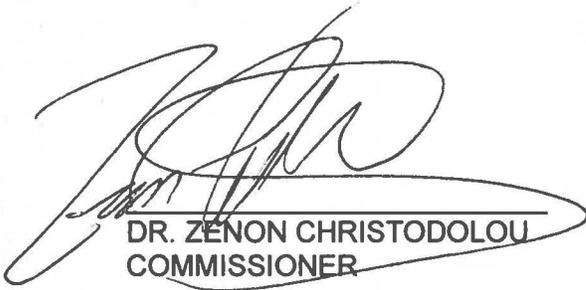
<sup>1</sup> In re the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic for a Temporary Waiver of Requirements for Certain Non-Essential Obligations, BPU Docket No. EO20030254, Orders dated March 19, 2020 and June 10, 2020.

This Order shall be effective on March 25, 2026.

DATED: March 18, 2026

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

  
CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY  
PRESIDENT

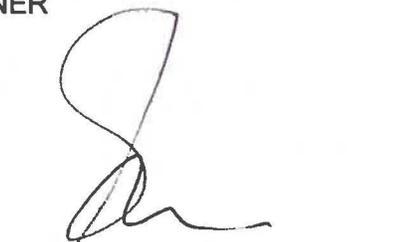
  
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COMMISSIONER

  
MICHAEL BANGE  
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EMMA REBORN  
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JOSEPH COVIELLO  
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 OF VEOLIA WATER NEW JERSEY, INC. AND LAKE LENAPE WATER CO. FOR AUTHORIZATION (i) FOR LAKE LENAPE WATER CO. TO DISCONTINUE UTILITY SERVICE AND SELL UTILITY ASSETS; AND (ii) FOR VEOLIA WATER NEW JERSEY, INC. TO ACQUIRE CONTROL OF LAKE LENAPE WATER CO.'S UTILITY ASSETS AND EXPAND ITS SERVICE AREA RELATED TO THE ACQUISITION OF ASSETS

DOCKET NO. WM25120650

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**Lake Lenape Water Company**

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