

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF A MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO PROVIDE WATER SERVICE TO THE LAKE TAMARACK PORTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON AND RELATED APPROVALS

BPU DOCKET NO. WE26020039

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on February 19, 2026, Aqua New Jersey, Inc. (“Aqua” or “Company”) filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-14 and 48:2-24, to the extent applicable, to acquire the water system assets of the Lake Tamarack Water Corporation (“Lake Tamarack”) which are located in the Lake Tamarack portion of the Township of Hardyston (“Township” or “Hardyston”), and to authorize Lake Tamarack to abandon utility service upon closing of the assets purchase. In conjunction with the sale of the water system, Aqua is seeking Board approval of a municipal consent ordinance (“Ordinance No. 2025-11”) granted to Aqua by the Township (“Petition”).

The Township adopted Ordinance No. 2025-11 on December 10, 2025, granting municipal consent to Aqua to construct, operate, and maintain water facilities and provide water service to the Lake Tamarack service area in the Township. On January 6, 2026, Aqua executed an Assets Purchase Agreement to purchase the assets of Lake Tamarack.

The Company also seeks authority to incorporate the assets into the Company’s tariff rates which sets forth the transition of Lake Tamarack customers to Aqua. Presently, Lake Tamarack customers are billed an annual flat rate of \$560, which is equal to approximately \$46.67 per month for water service. If the Petition is approved, Aqua will maintain the current flat rate for approximately four (4) to five (5) months to install remote-read meters for all customers located in the Lake Tamarack service area. Once the meters are installed, Aqua will implement the Company’s then-current Board approved General Metered Service rates to Lake Tamarack customers for water service.

Using Aqua’s current rates and assuming a 5/8” meter and 5,270 gallons usage per month (the average use of Aqua’s customers), Lake Tamarack customers would pay the following:

5/8” meter fixed monthly service charge	\$20.17
Volumetric charge (\$6.73 per thousand gallons)	\$35.47
Distribution System Improvement Charge	\$ 2.93
Lead Service Line Replacement Charge	<u>\$ 4.79</u>
Total	\$63.36

A LAKE TAMARACK CUSTOMER WITH A 5/8” METER USING 5,270 GALLONS OF WATER PER MONTH WILL SEE HIS/HER **MONTHLY BILL INCREASE** FROM APPROXIMATELY \$46.67 TO \$63.36, AN INCREASE OF \$16.69 PER MONTH OR APPROXIMATELY \$0.56 PER DAY.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a virtual public comment hearing on the Petition will be held on **July 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, via video conference at the designated date and time at the following link or dial-in number indicated below:

Date: July 7, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. EST

Link: <https://saul.zoom.us/j/97518350175>

Dial-In Number: 1 (267) 831-0333

Meeting ID: 975 1835 0175

Passcode: 048851

Representatives from Aqua, Board Staff, and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public comment hearing. Members of the public are invited to participate in the virtual hearing by utilizing the link or dial-in information above to express their views on the Petition. Comments shared will be made a part of the final record in the proceeding and considered by the Board.

The Board will accept written and/or electronic comments. While all comments will be given equal consideration and will be made part of the final record of this proceeding, the preferred method of transmittal is via the Board's Public Document Search tool, <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us>. Search for Docket No. WE26020039, and post by utilizing the "Post Comments" button. Written comments may also be submitted to the attention of the Hon. Sherri L. Lewis, Secretary of the Board of Public Utilities, 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 350, Trenton, NJ 08625, or via email, in pdf or Word format, to board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov. Persons submitting written comments are asked to include Docket No. WE26020039 in their submissions.

All comments are considered "public documents" for purposes of the State's Open Public Records Act. Commenters may identify information that they seek to keep confidential by submitting them in accordance with the confidentiality procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. Confidential information may be filed electronically via the Board's e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board, Sherri L. Lewis. Please include "Confidential Information" in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board's webpage, <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>. Any members of the public who wish to inspect the Petition at the Board should contact the Board's Division of Case Management at 609-292-2338 or board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

A copy of this Notice is being served upon the Clerk of the Township of Hardyston. Further information and copies of the Petition (including exhibits) may be obtained at the Board's Offices located at 44 South Clinton Street, 1st Floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350, on the Board's website at <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us>, at the Company's offices located at 10 Black Forest Road, Hamilton, New Jersey 08691, and on the Company's website at: <https://www.aquawater.com/about-aqua/states-we-serve/aqua-new-jersey>

And the direct links are here:

- Aqua Lake Tamarack Petition 2026
<https://url.us.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/MuhQCgJx8RuAGO0zqiohOc4FERT?domain=aquawater.com>
- Lake Tamarack Letter
<https://url.us.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/o02iCjRv5XunRK5xYi5iGcml4OA?domain=aquawater.com>

In order to encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for special accommodation at least 72 hours prior to the hearing to Natalie Chesko, President of Aqua New Jersey, Inc., 10 Black Forest Road, Hamilton, New Jersey 08691, via phone 609-587-4080, or via email to nchesko@aquawater.com.

AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC.
Natalie Chesko, President