

Agenda Date: 11/16/15

Agenda Item: VA

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES FOR UNITED WATER	)	ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR SERVICE
NEW JERSEY, INC.	)	BPU DOCKET NO. WR15101177

## Parties of Record:

**Stephen B. Genzer, Esq.,** Saul Ewing LLP, on behalf of United Water New Jersey, Inc. **Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:1

On October 7, 2015, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, and other relevant statues and regulations, United Water New Jersey, Inc. ("UWNJ", "Company" or "Petitioner"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") filed a petition seeking to increase its rate for water service amounting to approximately \$29,485,322.00 or 13.51% above the annual revenues. The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on November 30, 2015. The Petitioner does not seek interim rate relief pending final determination on the petition.

The Company is engaged in the business of collecting, treating, and distributing water for retail service to customers located in the northern and western portions of the State. Specifically, UWNJ serves approximately 200,000 customers located in portions of Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Morris, Hunterdon and Sussex Counties. UWNJ also supplies water service to municipalities including the Township of Saddle Brook, the Borough of Fairlawn, the Borough of Saddle River, the Borough of Allendale, the Borough of Mahwah, the Village of Ridgewood and the Borough of Ramsey.

According to the petition, the rate increase is required to enable the Petitioner to maintain a satisfactory credit position; preserve its financial integrity; permit proper maintenance and improvement of the utility facilities required to furnish safe, adequate and proper service; encourage continued effective management; provide incentives for efficiency; prevent confiscation or diminution of its property; and earn a reasonable return upon the fair value of its property used and useful in the public service.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Commissioner Upendra J. Chivukula recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest and as such took no part in the discussion or deliberation of this matter.

It appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be and are suspended until March 30, 2016, unless the Board prior to that date makes a determination disposing of the petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) Petitioner shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition by the Office of Administrative Law, file with this Board and with the Office of Administrative Law (33 Washington Street, Newark N.J. 07102) 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) Petitioner shall serve copies of this Order upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Division of Rate Counsel (140 East Front Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Post Office Box 003, Trenton, NJ 08625), the clerk of each affected municipality, the clerk of the Boards of Chosen Freeholders of each affected county, and where appropriate, the executive officer of each 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 within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Order.

This Order shall be effective on November 26, 2015.

DATED: 11-16-15

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

RICHARD S. MROZ

PRESIDENT

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

ATTES/

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN

COMMISSIONER

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

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IRENE KIM ASBURY SECRETARY

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

BPU DOCKET NO. WR15101177

## IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES FOR UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY INC. BPU DOCKET NO. WR15101177

## **SERVICE LIST**

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