

Agenda Date: 02/24/16 Agenda Item: VA

STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314 Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

<u>WATER</u>

)

)

)

)

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE

DOCKET NO. WR16010089

Parties of Record:

Steven B. Genzer, Esq., Saul Ewing, LLP, on behalf of Aqua New Jersey, Inc. Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On January 29, 2016, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21, <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:1-5.12, <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:9-10.1 <u>et</u> <u>seq.</u>, and other related statutes and regulations, Aqua New Jersey, Inc. ("Aqua," "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 and revise its rates and charges for water service amounting to approximately \$2,535,564 or 6.69%. The increase in rates was proposed to become effective on March 4, 2016. Aqua services approximately 51,000 customers located in several municipalities in Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer, Burlington, Monmouth, Camden, Ocean, Sussex, Gloucester, and Atlantic Counties, New Jersey. The Company is also engaged in the wastewater collection, treatment and transmission business and currently serves approximately 5,700 wastewater customers who are not a part of this proceeding.

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

It appearing that the case will not be completed by March 4, 2016, and that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is <u>HEREBY ORDERED</u> that:

- (1) Pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until July 4, 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 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-32.2 and <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 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, 4th Floor, Post Office Box 003, Trenton, N. J. 08625-0003), the clerks of all affected municipalities, the clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the affected county and, where appropriate, the executive officer of the affected county within its service area. Service of this petition, notice of hearings and this Order may be made simultaneously. Proof of service of the Order shall be filed with the Board within fifteen (15) days of the date of this Order.

This Order shall be effective on March 5, 2016.

DATED: 2-24-16 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY: RICHARD S. MROZ PRESIDENT JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO MÁRY/ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER DIANNE SOLOMON UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER ATTEST: IRENE KIM^LASB 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 SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES DOCKET NO. WR16010089

SERVICE LIST

Stephen B. Genzer, Esq. Saul Ewing, LLP One Riverfront Plaza, Suite 1520 Newark, NJ 07102 sgenzer@saul.com

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Floor Post Office Box 003 Trenton, NJ 08625-0003 <u>sbrand@rpa.state.nj.us</u> Irene Kim Asbury, Esq. Secretary of the Board Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314 Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 Irene.asbury@bpu.state.nj.us

Maria L. Moran, Director Division of Water Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314 Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 <u>Maria.moran@bpu.state.nj.us</u>