

WATER

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' CONSIDERATION OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017)))	DECISION AND ORDER ADOPTING STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DISPOSAL CORPORATION WITH CALCULATION OF RATES UNDER THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017))))	DOCKET NOS. AX18010001 AND WR18030235

Parties of Record:

Chris M. Arfaa, Esq., on behalf of Environmental Disposal Company, Inc. **Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:1

On December 22, 2017, the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law ("2017 Act"). The 2017 Act provided changes to the Federal Internal Revenue Tax Code, including a reduction in the maximum corporate tax rate from thirty-five percent (35%) to twenty-one percent (21%).

On January 31, 2018, the Board directed affected utilities to file petitions proposing new rates reflecting the impact of the 2017 Act.² Specifically, the Generic TCJA Order directed the affected utilities, including the Environmental Disposal Corporation ("EDC" or "Company"), to file amended tariffs reflecting a reduction in rates resulting from the reduction in the corporate tax rate effective April 1, 2018, as well as develop a plan to address other rate factors and to refund any overcollection in rates.

On March 2, 2018, EDC filed a petition pursuant to the Tax Order in Docket Nos. AX1801001 and WR18030235 ("Tax Filing"). The Tax Filing described the impact of the Tax Act on EDC and included proposed tariffs reflecting a rate reduction resulting from the Tax Act. The Company

¹ Commissioner Dr. Zenon Christodoulou recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest and as such took no part in the discussion or deliberation of this matter.

² In re the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Consideration of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, BPU Docket No. AX18010001, Order dated January 31, 2018 ("Generic TCJA Order"). The affected utilities are investor-owned gas, electric, water and wastewater companies under the jurisdiction of the Board. In addition, affected utilities shall be those with 2017 revenues equal to or greater than \$4.5 million.

also proposed to defer this resulting liability as of January 1, 2018 with interest at its short-term debt rate for the period of January 1, 2018, through March 31, 2018 ("stub period"). The Board adopted the Company's proposed tariffs on an interim basis, effective April 1, 2018, subject to refund pending the outcome of this proceeding.³

The Tax Filing also included proposals related to the effects of the Tax Act on accumulated deferred income taxes ("ADIT"). The Tax Filing explained that, due to the risk of violating the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") normalization rules, EDC could not begin flowing back "excess" ADIT ("excess ADIT" or "EADIT") to customers until it completed the "average rate assumption method" ("ARAM") calculations required by the Tax Act. Consequently, the Tax Filing proposed to defer excess ADIT liability until the Company's next base rate case. EDC proposed to begin flowing back the excess ADIT to customers, after the next rate case, when the amortization amount is known.

On May 25, 2018, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") filed comments in this matter. EDC submitted reply comments on June 5, 2018. On June 7, 2019, EDC, Board Staff, and Rate Counsel (collectively, "Signatory Parties") entered into a partial stipulation of settlement ("Partial Stipulation") related to the refund of the federal income taxes that the Company collected in rates during the stub period. The Board approved the Partial Stipulation on July 10, 2019.⁴

On December 6, 2019, EDC submitted its updated excess ADIT balances and amortization calculations, and its proposal for the return of the excess ADIT to its customers. The Signatory Parties engaged in further discovery and settlement discussions in this matter.

STIPULATION

As a result of the settlement discussions, the Signatory Parties executed a stipulation of settlement ("Stipulation") resolving the remaining issues:⁵

A. Excess ADIT

- The Signatory Parties agree that EDC's protected EADIT balance of \$1,069,845 (non-grossed up) is subject to IRS normalization rules and will be amortized and returned to customers over the remaining life of the underlying assets, pursuant to ARAM. EDC's protected EADIT balance has been recorded as a regulatory liability ("protected EADIT regulatory liability").
- 2. The Signatory Parties agree that EDC's unprotected EADIT balance of \$269,862 (non-grossed up), which is not subject to IRS normalization rules, will be amortized

³ In re the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Consideration of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and In re the Petition of Environmental Disposal Corporation with Calculation of Rates Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act 2017, Docket Nos. AX18010001and WR18030235, Order dated March 26, 2018.

⁴ In re the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Consideration of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and In re the Petition of Environmental Disposal Corporation with Calculation of Rates Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Docket Nos. AX18010001 and WR18030235, Order dated July 10, 2019.

⁵ Although described in this Order at some length, should there be any conflict between this summary and the Stipulation, the terms of the Stipulation control, subject to the findings and conclusions in this Order.

over 15 years. The calculation of the protected EADIT regulatory liability and the unprotected EADIT regulatory asset is set forth on Schedule A, which is attached to the Stipulation.

B. <u>Disposition of EADIT</u>

3. The Signatory Parties agree that retroactive to January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2022, the Company will return to customers both protected and unprotected EADIT in the amount of \$251,219 which is net of the revenue requirements of increasing rate base due to the reduction of EADIT. The EADIT will be returned to customers as a one-time credit applied equally to all customers of EDC beginning in March 2023. In addition, the Signatory Parties further agree to pass back the estimated 2023 protected and unprotected EADIT in the amount of \$52,572 as a sur-credit equally to all customers over 10 months beginning in March 2023. The sur-credit (estimated to be \$0.81 per month on an annual basis) will continue until EDC files its next base rate case. At the conclusion of the next base rate case, the sur-credit will be eliminated and EADIT will become a reduction in base rates. ARAM amounts vary each year and to the extent that amounts in any period for 2022 and after vary from the amounts shown on Schedule A of the Stipulation, the amounts will be trued up in the next base rate case.

DISCUSSION AND FINDING

The Signatory Parties have exchanged discovery, participated in settlement discussions, and resolved all disputed issues that emanated from EDC's Tax Filing, as set forth in the Stipulation.

The Board, having reviewed the record in this proceeding, including the Tax Filing, the comments, and the Stipulation, <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> the Stipulation to be reasonable, in the public interest, and in accordance with the law. Therefore, the Board <u>HEREBY ADOPTS</u> the Stipulation in its entirety and <u>HEREBY INCORPORATES</u> its terms and conditions as though fully set forth herein. The Stipulation will result in a credit of approximately \$0.81 per month through the refund period.

This Order shall be effective on March 6, 2023.

DATED: March 6, 2023

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

PRESIDENT

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER DIANNE GOLOMON COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GORDON COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

CARMEN D. DIAZ ACTING 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 NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLICUTILITIES' CONSIDERATION OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017 DOCKET NO. AX18010001

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DISPOSAL CORPORATION WITH CALCULATION OF RATES UNDER THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017 DOCKET NO. WR18030235

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW JERSEY

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES'

CONSIDERATION OF THE TAX CUTS

AND JOBS ACT OF 2017

BPU DOCKET NO. WR18030235

BPU DOCKET NO. AX18010001

ENVIRONMENTAL DISPOSAL CORP.
WITH CALCULATION OF RATES

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF

UNDER THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

OF 2017

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

APPEARANCES:

Christopher M. Arfaa, Esquire, for Petitioner Environmental Disposal Corp.

Brian O. Lipman, Esquire, Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

Paul Youchak, Esquire, Deputy Attorney General (Matthew J. Platkin, Attorney General of New Jersey) on behalf of the Staff of the Board of Public Utilities

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

BACKGROUND

On December 22, 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 ("TCJA") was signed into law with an effective date of January 1, 2018. The TCJA sets forth changes to the Federal Internal Revenue Tax Code, one of which is the reduction in the maximum corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% effective January 1, 2018.

On January 31, 2018, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") issued an Order ("TCJA Order") which set all affected utility rates as interim and established a proceeding to consider the implications of the TCJA. See I/M/O New Jersey Board of Public Utilities'

Consideration of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, BPU Docket No. AX18010001 (Jan. 31,

2018). The TCJA Order directed each affected public utility to defer, with interest, the effects of the TCJA on its books and records effective January 1, 2018, and to file amended tariffs reflecting a reduction in rates resulting from the reduction in the maximum corporate tax rate effective April 1, 2018, as well as a plan to address other rate factors and to refund any overcollection in rates.

On March 2, 2018, Environmental Disposal Corp. ("EDC" or "Company") filed a petition ("TCJA Filing") under the TCJA Order in Docket Nos. AX1801001 and WR18030235. The TCJA Filing described the impact of the TCJA on EDC and included proposed tariffs reflecting a rate reduction resulting from the TCJA. EDC also proposed to defer, as of January 1, 2018, with interest at its short-term debt rate, the impact on rates as a result of decreasing its tax expense from 34% to 21% for the period January 1, 2018, through March 31, 2018 ("stub period"). The Board adopted the Company's proposed tariffs, on an interim basis, effective April 1, 2018, subject to refund pending the outcome of this proceeding.

The TCJA Filing also included proposals related to the effects of the TCJA on accumulated deferred income taxes ("ADIT"). The TCJA Filing explained that EDC elected to utilize the "average rate assumption method" ("ARAM") calculation method and therefore could not begin flowing back "excess" ADIT ("excess ADIT" or "EADIT") to customers until it completed those calculations. Consequently, the TCJA Filing proposed to defer the excess ADIT liability until the Company's next base rate case. EDC recommended that, in the next rate case, when the amortization amount is known, it would begin to flow back that amount to customers.

On May 25, 2018, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") filed comments in this matter. EDC submitted reply comments on June 5, 2018. On June 7, 2019,

EDC, the Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and Rate Counsel ("Signatory Parties") entered into a partial stipulation of settlement ("Partial Stipulation") related to the refund of the federal income taxes that the Company collected in rates during the stub period. The Board approved the Partial Stipulation on July 10, 2019.

On December 6, 2019, EDC submitted its updated excess ADIT balances and amortization calculations, and its proposal for the return of the excess ADIT to its customers.

The Signatory Parties have engaged in further extensive discovery and settlement discussions in this matter. As a result, the Signatory Parties have reached a stipulation of settlement ("Stipulation") on the following remaining issues in dispute:

STIPULATED MATTERS

A. Excess ADIT

- 1. The Signatory Parties agree that EDC's protected EADIT balance of \$1,069,845, (non-grossed up) is subject to IRS normalization rules and will be amortized and returned to customers over the remaining life of the underlying assets, pursuant to ARAM. EDC's protected EADIT balance has been recorded as a regulatory liability ("protected EADIT regulatory liability").
- 2. The Signatory Parties agree that EDC's unprotected EADIT balance of \$269,862, (non-grossed up), which is not subject to IRS normalization rules, will be amortized over 15 years. The calculation of the protected EADIT regulatory liability and the unprotected EADIT regulatory asset is set forth on the attached Schedule A.

B. Disposition of EADIT

31, 2022, the Company will return to customers both protected and unprotected EADIT in the amount of \$251,219 which is net of the revenue requirements of increasing rate base due to the reduction of EADIT. The EADIT will be returned to customers as a one-time credit applied equally to all customers of EDC beginning in March 2023. In addition, the Signatory Parties further agree to pass back the estimated 2023 protected and unprotected EADIT in the amount of \$52,572 as a sur-credit equally to all customers over 10 months beginning in March 2023. The sur-credit (estimated to be \$0.81 per month on an annual basis) will continue until EDC files its next base rate case. At the conclusion of the next base rate case, the sur-credit will be eliminated and EADIT will become a reduction in base rates. ARAM amounts vary each year and to the extent that amounts in any period for 2022 and after vary from the amounts shown on Schedule A, the amounts will be trued up in the next base rate case.

C. <u>Effective Date</u>

4. The Signatory Parties agree that they will use their best efforts to ensure that this Stipulation is presented to the Board for approval at its March 8, 2023, public agenda meeting. A Board Order approving this Stipulation shall become effective upon such date that the Board may specify and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:2-40.

D. Miscellaneous

- 5. The Signatory Parties agree that this Stipulation has been made exclusively for the purpose of this proceeding and that this Stipulation, in total or by specific item, is in no way binding upon them in any other proceeding, except to enforce the terms of the Stipulation.
 - 6. The Signatory Parties agree that this Stipulation contains a mutual balancing of

interests, contains interdependent provisions and, therefore, is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. In the event any particular aspect of this Stipulation is not accepted and approved in its entirety by the Board, or modified by the Board, each Signatory Party that is adversely affected by the modification can either accept the modification or declare this Stipulation to be null and void, and the Signatory Parties shall be placed in the same position that they were in immediately prior to its execution.

- 7. It is the intent of the Signatory Parties that the provisions hereof be approved by the Board as being in the public interest. The Signatory Parties further agree that they consider the Stipulation to be binding on them for all purposes herein.
- 8. The Signatory Parties agree that this Stipulation represents a negotiated agreement and has been made exclusively for the purpose of this proceeding. Except as expressly provided herein, the Signatory Parties shall not be deemed to have approved, agreed to, or consented to any principle or methodology underlying or supposed to underlie any agreement provided herein, in total or by specific item. The Signatory Parties further agree that this Stipulation is in no way binding upon them in any other proceeding, except to enforce the terms of this Stipulation.
- 9. This Stipulation may be executed in as many counterparts as there are Signatory Parties of this Stipulation, and each such counterpart shall be considered an original; however, all such counterparts will constitute one and the same instrument.

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ENVIRONMENTAL DISPOSAL CORP.

By: Christopher M. Arfaa, Esquire

Dated: February 17, 2023

MATTHEW J. PLATKIN ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE NEW JERSEY **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

By: Welika Arnautovic

Deputy Attorney General

Dated:

BRIAN O. LIPMAN DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

By: Susan E. McClure, Esq.

Dated: 1/21/23

Environmental Disposal Corp. (EDC) Excess ADIT - Proposal to Sur-credit Customers

Annual EADIT 2023 sur-credit to customers - Grossed-up

Monthly EADIT 2023 sur-credit to customers - Grossed-up

Rate Base effect of passing back credit - see computation EDC ROR

Estimated monthly per customer sur-credit EDC total customers at 9/30/2022 - 5,379

Revenue Requirement of Returning EADIT

EDC Rev. Conv. Factor Revenue Requirement for Rate Base Increase

UOI

Schedule A									
	FARIT	Unprotected				Amortization	F	F-111	
	EADIT Amount	Life 15	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Estimated 2022	Estimated 2023	Total
	Amount	15	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
1018 Fed - M/L	\$1,069,845	n/a	(\$26,263)	(\$27,704)	(\$26,845)	(\$31,817)	(\$22,165)	(\$23,541)	(\$158,336)
1018 Fed - COR	12,749	15	(850)	(850)	(850)	(850)	(850)	(850)	(5,100) 0
1018 Fed - AFUDC Debt	330	15	(22)	(22)	(22)	(22)	(22)	(22)	(132)
1018 Fed - AFUDC Equity	676	15	(45)	(45)	(45)	(45)	(45)	(45)	(270)
1018 Fed - CPI	0	15	0	0	0	0	0		0
1018 Fed - Historical Other	227,015	15	(15,134)	(15,134)	(15,134)	(15,134)	(15,134)	(15,134)	(90,806)
1018 Fed - Stock Acq Adj	0	15	0	0	0	0	0		0
1018 Fed - Tax Repairs	42,395	15	(2,826)	(2,826)	(2,826)	(2,826)	(2,826)	(2,826)	(16,958)
1018 Fed - Taxable CIAC	0								0
Total - PowerTax	\$1,353,010		(\$45,141)	(\$46,582)	(\$45,723)	(\$50,695)	(\$41,043)	(\$42,419)	(\$271,602)
Plant Items Outside PowerTax									
Plant CWIP	\$2,076	15	(\$138)	(\$138)	(\$138)	(\$138)	(\$138)	(\$138)	(\$830)
Total Plant Related	\$1,355,086		(\$45,279)	(\$46,720)	(\$45,861)	(\$50,833)	(\$41,182)	(\$42,557)	(\$272,432)
All Other Non Plant									
Bad Debt	(\$15,379)	15	\$1,025	\$1,025	\$1,025	\$1,025	\$1,025	\$1,025	\$6,151
Total	\$1,339,708		(\$44,254)	(\$45,695)	(\$44,836)	(\$49,808)	(\$40,156)	(\$41,532)	(\$266,281)
Allocation by Categorization									
Protected	\$1,069,845		(\$26,263)	(\$27,704)	(\$26,845)	(\$31,817)	(\$22,165)	(\$23,541)	(\$158,336)
Unprotected	269,862		(17,991)	(17,991)	(17,991)	(17,991)	(17,991)	(17,991)	(107,945)
Uncertain									
Total	\$1,339,708		(\$44,254)	(\$45,695)	(\$44,836)	(\$49,808)	(\$40,156)	(\$41,532)	(\$266,281)
Calculation of One-time and Monthly Sur-Credit									
2018-2022 Total Pass-back Amount - Catch-up period	\$224,749		Rate Base incre	ease for passir	ng back Sur-cr	edit			
Grossed-up Amount	\$284,493				Pass-Back	Cumulative			
Less: EADIT Rate Base Increase (see below)	(33,274)		Year I	Month	Amount	Rate Base			
Net Pass-back Amount for one-time credit	\$251,219					Impact			
Estimated one-time per customer credit	(\$46.70)		2023	1	\$ 228,210	\$ 228,210			
EDC total customers at 9/30/2022 - 5,379	,			2	3,461	231,671			
				3	3,461	235,071			

\$52,572

\$4,381

(\$0.81)

\$268,011 8.5200% \$22,835

1.4572 \$33,274

Year	Month	Pass-Back Amount				imulative ate Base Impact
2023	1	\$	228,210	\$ 228,210		
	2		3,461	231,671		
	3		3,461	235,132		
	4		3,461	238,593		
	5		3,461	242,054		
	6		3,461	245,515		
	7		3,461	248,976		
	8		3,461	252,437		
	9		3,461	255,898		
	10		3,461	259,359		
	11		3,461	262,820		
	12		3,461	266,281		
2024	1		3,461	269,742		
	2		3,461	273,203		
	3		3,461	276,664		
	4		3,461	280,125		
	5		3,461	283,586		
	6		3,461	287,047		
	7		3,461	290,508		
	8		3,461	293,969		
	9		3,461	297,430		
	10		3,461	300,891		
	11		3,461	304,352		
	12		3,461	307,812		
	24-Mon	th A	vg Balance	\$268,011		