

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

### **IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR APPROVAL TO DEFER CERTAIN COSTS RELATED TO THE REPLACEMENT OF LEAD SERVICE LINES AND OTHER RELATED APPROVALS**

#### **BPU DOCKET NUMBER WR22120745**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that, on December 23, 2022, Aqua New Jersey, Inc. (“Aqua” or “Company”), pursuant to P.L. 2021, c. 183, filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“BPU” or “Board”), for approval to defer the costs related to the replacement of lead service lines (“LSL”) and other related approvals (“Petition”). By the Petition, the Company proposed deferred accounting to recover all monies prudently invested to replace LSLs in its service areas during the timeframe directed by the legislature. Aqua also noted that it would identify any LSL costs that it would recover through its Distribution System Improvement Charge (“DSIC”).

As described in the Petition, most buildings receiving water service from a water system are connected to that system through a “service line,” which usually consists of two portions: a “company-side” portion which connects the water main (usually in the street) and a non-company-owned portion connected to the building receiving water service. The non-company-owned portion of the service line is owned and controlled by the owner of the building connected by the service line. Many of these service lines have been discovered to contain lead or other problematic substances. P.L. 2021, c. 183 mandates a 10-year timeframe for the replacement of such problematic service lines in New Jersey, and provides that, in a company’s next rate case before the Board, a plan should be implemented consistent with that law for cost recovery of non-company-side LSL replacement costs. The Company is working diligently to ensure it meets the mandates for replacement contained within the LSL Law and expects to replace somewhere between 3,000 and 9,000 LSLs within the next nine years.

By the Petition, the Company requests that the BPU approve a plan to account for, and defer on its books, expenditures relating to its LSL replacement program pending a BPU decision in the Company’s next rate case. The Company also requests that the BPU allow it to seek recovery of LSL replacement costs in the DSIC that have been incurred to comply with P.L. 2021, c. 183.

The costs to be recovered for LSL replacements will be filed as part of the Company’s next full rate case, or in conjunction with its DSIC filings. Thus, Aqua anticipates there will be no customer rate impact at this time as a result of this Petition.

Further information and copies of the Petition may be obtained at the Board’s offices located at 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, P.O. Box 350, Trenton, NJ 08625, or online through the Board’s website, <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us>, where you can search by the above-captioned docket number. The Petition is also available at the Company’s offices located at 10 Black Forest Road, Hamilton, New Jersey 08691, or on Aqua’s website at <https://www.aquawater.com/about/states-we-serve/new-jersey.php>.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual public hearings are scheduled for the following date and times so that members of the public may present their views on the Petition:

**Date: May 10, 2023**  
**Times: 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.**

Members of the public may present their views on the Petition during the public hearing by accessing the link below and following the instructions or dialing the toll-free telephone number listed below, followed by entering the listed passcode when prompted.

To access the Microsoft Teams Meeting by link:  
[https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F\\_%23%2F1%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%3Ameeting\\_NjA1OTRiYmEtODgwYy00YTJlWjZwYtNTY3N2UyZTE2YWY2%40thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%25226d3a7112-a9ea-4b4c-81aa-579d6f9bf197%2522%252c%2522Oid%2522%253a%25225a67f360-b9d2-4ecf-a290-d41f2e5e602a%2522%257d%26anon%3Dtrue&type=meetup-join&deeplinkId=12fb5ba0-faba-41f7-8dba-78d05ea9ba3f&directDl=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true](https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F_%23%2F1%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%3Ameeting_NjA1OTRiYmEtODgwYy00YTJlWjZwYtNTY3N2UyZTE2YWY2%40thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%25226d3a7112-a9ea-4b4c-81aa-579d6f9bf197%2522%252c%2522Oid%2522%253a%25225a67f360-b9d2-4ecf-a290-d41f2e5e602a%2522%257d%26anon%3Dtrue&type=meetup-join&deeplinkId=12fb5ba0-faba-41f7-8dba-78d05ea9ba3f&directDl=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true), or you can access the meeting by using the following information in the Microsoft Teams App or Microsoft Teams on the web. On the left side of the screen click the “Teams” icon. Select “Join or create a team”. Click “Join” and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted.

Meeting ID: 260 439 096 173  
Passcode: iiKgLb

Members of the public may also access the meeting via telephone. To access by Telephone:

Dial In: 1-267-419-7428  
Conference ID: 204 487 833 followed by #

Representatives of the Company, Board Staff, and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings. Members of the public may participate by utilizing the link or Dial-In number set forth above and express their views on this matter. To encourage full participation in this opportunity for public comment, please submit any requests for needed accommodations, such as interpreters and/or listening assistance, 48 hours prior to the above hearings to the Secretary of the Board at [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov).

Comments may be submitted directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search. Comments are considered public documents for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also be filed electronically via the Board’s e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. 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/>.

Emailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:  
Secretary of the Board  
44 South Clinton Ave., 1st Floor  
PO Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350  
Phone: 609-913-6241  
Email: [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)

Dated: April 13, 2023

Aqua New Jersey, Inc.