



Agenda Date: 1/25/23  
Agenda Item: VA

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350  
[www.nj.gov/bpu/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF PINELANDS WATER	)	ORDER FURTHER SUSPENDING
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN	)	INCREASES, CHANGES OR
ITS RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER	)	ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR
TARIFF CHANGES	)	WATER SERVICE
	)	
	)	BPU DOCKET NO. WR22090555
	)	OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 08466-2022S

**Parties of Record:**

**Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director**, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel  
**Jay L. Kooper, Esq., General Counsel**, Pinelands Water Company, Petitioner

BY THE BOARD:

On September 7, 2022, the Pinelands Water Company (“Company” or “Petitioner”), a public utility within the State of New Jersey, with its principal business office located at 485C Route One South, Suite 400, Iselin, New Jersey 08830, filed a petition pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11 and 14:1-5.12 to increase the base rates for its water service (“Petition”). The Company serves customers in portions of Southampton Township (“Township”), Burlington County, including contract service for part of the Township itself. The Petitioner requested authorization to increase its base tariff rates and charges for water service to approximately \$609,576 or 64.22% above the adjusted annual revenue for the test year ending December 31, 2022. The Company requested an implementation date of October 7, 2022 for the increase in rates. The Board referred the Petition to the Office of Administrative Law (“OAL”) for disposition as a contested case, and, on September 28, 2022, issued an order suspending increases in rates until February 7, 2023.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In re Pinelands Water Co. for Approval of an Increase in its Rates for Water Service and Other Tariff Changes, BPU Docket No. WR22090555, Order dated September 28, 2022.

The Petitioner claims the proposed rate increase is necessary due to increased expenses since rates were last set in 2019. The increase in expenses includes the costs of power, chemicals, maintenance, security, taxes, insurance, labor and employee benefits. The Company is also engaged in a capital improvement program to maintain and improve safe, adequate and proper service to its customers. The Company claimed that the capital improvements and increase in expenses have improved the quality of service. Further, the Company stated that the current rates are inadequate to meet the Company's increased expenses and provide a reasonable return on its investment in the utility plant.

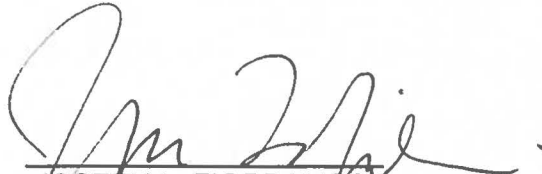
As the proposed revisions, if approved, will increase existing rates and change existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

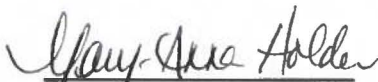
- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2.21(d), the proposed revisions are further suspended until June 7, 2023, unless prior to that date the Board disposes of the Petition or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) Petitioner shall, at least 10 days prior to the date set for hearing on the Petition by the OAL, file with the Board, and with the OAL, proof of compliance with the notice provisions set forth in N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12(b) and (c), including 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 OAL; the Division of Rate Counsel; the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of the affected county; and, where appropriate, the executive officer of the affected county. 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.

This Order shall be effective on February 1, 2023.

DATED: January 25, 2023


BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

  
JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO  
PRESIDENT

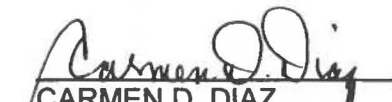
  
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COMMISSIONER

  
DIANNE SOLOMON  
COMMISSIONER

  
ROBERT M. GORDON  
COMMISSIONER

  
DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU  
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 PINELANDS WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE  
IN ITS RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES

DOCKET NO.WR22090555  
OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 08516-2022S

SERVICE LIST

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