Agenda Date: 11/30/11 Agenda Item: VB



# 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/

# WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES	) ) ) )	ORDER FURTHER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES  DOCKET NO. WR11070428
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Stephen B. Genzer, Saul Ewing, Esq. for Petitioner

Stefanie A. Brand, Director, Esq. for Division of Rate Counsel

# BY THE BOARD:

On July 18, 2011, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Petitioner, United Water New Jersey, Inc. ("Petitioner" or "Company"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey, subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") and providing water service to approximately 194,000 customers within its defined territories consisting of portions of Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Morris, Hunterdon and Sussex Counties, filed a petition to increase base water rates in the amount of \$38,690,060 or 20.85%. The increase in rates was proposed to become effective on September 1, 2011.

According to the petition, the Company seeks the increase to establish the basis for a Distribution System Improvement Charge ("DSIC"), if the Board's proposed DSIC regulations are adopted as final in the future, to make the base findings necessary to establish a Purchased Water Adjustment Clause ("PWAC"), to implement several tariff changes including those related to the installation of meter pits and to implement tariff changes related to the payment of charges for intentionally damaged curb stops.

On August 18, 2011, the Board issued an Order suspending the Company's proposed rate increase until January 1, 2012. This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for hearings on July 20, 2011. A public hearing was held on November 15, 2011, at the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting room in Hackensack, New Jersey. No members of the public attended the hearing.

In light of the fact that this proceeding will not be resolved before January 1, 2012, the

expiration of the first suspension period, it is HEREBY ORDERED that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until May 1, 2012, unless the Board prior to that date, makes a determination disposing of the petition;
- (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 (31 Clinton Street, P.O. Box 46005, Newark, NJ 07102), the clerk(s) of each affected municipality, the clerk(s) 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 Suspension Order may be made simultaneously. Proof of service of this Order shall be filed with the Board within fifteen (15) days of the date of this Order.

This Order shall be effective on December 10, 2011.

DATED: 11/30/11

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

LEE A. SOLOMON

**PRESIDENT** 

JEANNE M. FOX COMMISSIONER JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA

COMMISSIONER

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

Utilities

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY

# IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES

# BPU DOCKET NO. WR11070428

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