

Agenda Date: 10/4/12 Agenda Item: VC

## 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

**DOCKET NO. WR12080735** 

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PINELANDS	)	ORDER SUSPENDING
WASTEWATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN	)	INCREASES CHANGES OR
INCREASE IN ITS RATES FOR WASTEWATER	)	ALTERATIONS IN RATES
SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES	)	FOR WASTEWATER
	)	SERVICE
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### Parties of Record:

**Kenneth J. Quinn, Esq.,** for Pinelands Wastewater Company, Petitioner **Stefanie A. Brand, Esq.,** Director, Division of Rate Counsel

#### BY THE BOARD:

On August 10, 2012, Pinelands Wastewater Company ("Company" or "Petitioner"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Middlesex Water Company ("Middlesex"), a New Jersey corporation and public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") filed a Petition pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.11, 14:1-5.12 et seq., seeking to increase its base wastewater rates in the amount of \$81,977 or 7.93% above its proposed proforma revenues. The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on October 1, 2012.

Pinelands serves approximately 2,400 retail wastewater customers in Southampton Township, Burlington County, NJ. Petitioner also provides contract services to Southampton Township.

According to the petition, Pinelands seeks the increase to support capital improvement programs. The additional revenues are requested to enable Petitioner to preserve its financial integrity, to permit proper maintenance, development and improvement of the utility plant required to furnish safe, adequate and proper service and to earn a reasonable return upon the fair value of its property used and useful in the public service.

It appearing 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:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On September 20, 2012, the Company submitted an email stating that it will not implement the proposed rates until October 15, 2012.

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until February 1, 2013, 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 (9 Quakerbridge Plaza, P. O. Box 049, Trenton, NJ 08625) 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 of the affected municipality, 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 the petition, notice of hearings and this 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 October 14, 2012.

10/4/12 DATED:

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** BY:

PRESIDENT

NE M. FOX

OMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY H<sup>°</sup>L. PIORDALISO

OMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within

# IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF PINELANDS WASTEWATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES BPU DOCKET NO. WR12080735 SERVICE LIST

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Maria Moran, Director Michael Kammer, Bureau Chief NJ Board of Public Utilities Division of Water 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350