

Agenda Date: 12/18/13 Agenda Item: VE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.ni.gov/bpu/

| | | WATER |
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| IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SHORE WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR SERVICE |)))) | ORDER FURTHER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR SERVICE BPU Docket No. WR13080715 |

Parties of Record:

Lewis Goldshore, Esq., on behalf of Shore Water Company, Petitioner Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On August 9, 2013, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-18, N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12 and N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.1 et seq., Shore Water Company ("Company") a public utility of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), filed a petition seeking to increase its rates for water service amounting to approximately \$162,383 or 31.15% above the annual revenues. The increase in rates was proposed "...to become effective thirty (30) days after the filing of this Petition with the office of the Secretary of the Board of Public Utilities." The Petitioner did not seek interim rate relief pending final determination on the petition.

¹ The Company filed a letter with the Board dated August 31, 2013, stating that it will not implement rates on an interim basis prior to the effective date of the Board's Suspension Order adopted at the September 18, 2013, Board Agenda Meeting.

The Company is engaged in the provision of water service in the area of the Township of Berkeley, Ocean County, New Jersey known as South Seaside Park. The Company also provides water service to Island Beach State Park.

According to the petition, the rate increase is required to enable the Company to maintain a satisfactory credit position, preserve its financial integrity, permit proper maintenance and improvement of the utility facilities required to furnish safe, adequate and proper service, encourage continued effective management and provide incentives for efficiency, prevent confiscation or diminution of its property, and to earn a reasonable return upon the fair value of its property used and useful in the public service.

On August 29, 2013, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for hearings and on September 18, 2013, the Board issued an Order suspending the proposed rates until January 9, 2014.

In light of the fact that this matter will not be completed by January 9, 2014, and that it appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Company's tariff, it is <u>HEREBY ORDERED</u> that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until May 9, 2014, 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 (33 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 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 (140 East Front Street 4th Floor, P.O. Box 003, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0003), the clerk of the affected municipality, and 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 December 28, 2013.

DATED:

12/18/13

BY: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SHORE WATER COMPANY FOR AN APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES

BPU DOCKET NO. WR13080715

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