



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)	ORDER FURTHER SUSPENDING
GORDON'S CORNER WATER COMPANY FOR)	INCREASES, CHANGES OR
AN INCREASE IN RATES AND CHARGES FOR)	ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR WATER
WATER SERVICE)	SERVICE
)	
)	BPU DOCKET NO. WR21070979
)	OAL Docket No PUC 06235-21

Parties of Record:

Stephen B. Genzer, Esq., Saul, Ewing, Arnstein, & Lehr, LLP, on behalf of Gordon's Corner Water Company
Brian O. Lipman, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On July 9, 2021, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Gordon's Corner Water Company ("Gordon's Corner," "Company," or "Petitioner"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey, with its principal business office located at 27 Vanderburg Road, Marlboro, New Jersey, 07746, and subject to the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), filed a verified petition for the authority to increase its base tariff rates and charges for water service amounting to approximately \$2,292,237 or 18.4%. Gordon's Corner serves approximately 15,000 customers in portions of Marlboro and Manalapan Townships, Monmouth County, New Jersey.

The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on August 15, 2021.¹ The Company also indicated in the petition that it intends to implement the proposed rates on April 15, 2022, on an interim basis pursuant to law, applicable Board regulations, and only if the Board has suspended the effective date of the new rates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 but not finally determined a new just and reasonable rate prior to that date.

According to the petition, the need for the base rate relief is driven, in part, by the increase in rates to SUEZ Water Matchaponix, Inc., granted by the Board in I/M/O the Petition of SUEZ Water New Jersey, Inc. for Approval of an Increase in Rates for Water/Sewer Service and other Tariff

¹ On July 12, 2021, the Company filed a letter with the Board stating that it will not implement rates on an interim basis prior to the effective date of the Board's initial suspension order in this matter.

Changes, Docket No. WR20110729 (May 19, 2021), as well as the pending base rate case filed by Middlesex Water Company in I/M/O Middlesex Water Company for Approval of an Increase in its Rates for Water Service and other Tariff Changes, Docket No. WR21050813. The Company further indicates it has also added \$3.5 million in rate base since its last base rate case due in large part to the installation of a new well to replace an existing well that has reached the end of its useful life and major upgrades to the Company's oldest groundwater treatment plant.

In addition, the petition states that the Company's existing tariff has become unjust and unreasonable because the revenues derived therefrom are insufficient to permit it (1) to meet the cost of operating the facilities used and useful in the service of the public; (2) to obtain a just and reasonable return on the investment in said facilities; (3) to maintain its financial integrity, attract capital, and to compensate investors for the risks assumed on a basis comparable to that in other business undertakings attended by corresponding risks; (4) to encourage good management and furnish incentive for efficiency; to continue to furnish safe, adequate and proper service, and (5) to maintain its facilities in such condition as to discharge its public duties.

By Order dated, September 18, 2021, the Board suspended the proposed rate increase until December 15, 2021 pending further action in this matter. This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for hearings as a contested case and was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Tricia Caliguire for consideration and hearing.

The public hearing was held via zoom on October 13, 2021. The parties have been exchanging discovery. Therefore, in light of the fact that this matter will not be completed prior to December 15, 2021, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are further suspended until April 15, 2022, 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 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 (3444 Quakerbridge Road, Quakerbridge Plaza-Bldg.9, Mercerville, New Jersey 08619), 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, Post Office Box 003, Trenton, N. J. 08625-0003), the clerk of the affected municipalities, the clerk of the Board of Commissioners of the affected county and, where appropriate, the executive officer of the affected county within its service area. Service of this petition, notice of hearings and this Order may be made simultaneously. Proof of service of the Order shall be filed with the Board within 15 days of the date of this Order.

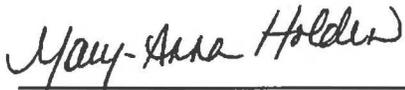
This Order shall be effective on December 8, 2021.

DATED: December 1, 2021

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF GORDON'S CORNER WATER COMPANY FOR AN
INCREASE IN RATES AND CHANGES FOR WATER SERVICE
DOCKET NO. WR21070979
OAL Docket No. PUC 06235-21

SERVICE LIST

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