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December 16, 2021

## Via Efile

Honorable Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, Suite 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Re: IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO INCREASE TARIFF RATES FOR SEWERAGE SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES BPU Docket. No. WR21071006

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY TO DECREASE THE LEVEL OF ITS PURCHASED SEWERAGE TREATMENT ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE BPU Docket No. WR21091128

Dear Secretary Camacho-Welch,

Enclosed please find the updated tariff for sewerage service, pursuant to the Board Orders issued on December 15, 2021 in the above-captioned matters, on behalf of the Petitioner. This tariff reflects rates effective for service rendered on and after January 1, 2022.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney L. Schultz

**Enclosures** 

cc: Per attached Service Lists (via Email)

## **TARIFF**

**FOR** 

## SEWERAGE SERVICE

Applicable In THE CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY **NEW JERSEY** 

Date of Issue: December 15, 2021

WENDY E. STEWART, President & General Manager Issued by:

1200 Atlantic Avenue Atlantic City, New Jersey Effective for Service rendered on and after January 1, 2022

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1200 Atlantic Avenue

Atlantic City, New Jersey

Effective for Service rendered on and after

January 1, 2022

#### Section 1. **Territory Served**

1.1 The territory served is comprised of the City of Atlantic City which is in the County of Atlantic, in the State of New Jersey.

#### **Definition of Terms** Section 2.

- The ACMUA shall mean the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority. 2.1
- 2.2 The Company shall mean The Atlantic City Sewerage Company.
- 2.3 The Company's lines shall mean its laterals, mains, manholes, and appurtenances.
- 2.4 BPU or Board shall mean the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.
- Buildings shall include structures of all types which are directly or indirectly connected 2.5 to the Company's lines.
- 2.6 Deferred Payment Arrangement ("DPA") shall mean a payment agreement which may be offered by the Company to a customer upon request, as appropriate and in accordance with the Board's regulations.
- 2.7 Nonresidential Service shall mean sewerage service supplied to a commercial or industrial building, including but not limited to a casino, hotel or motel, or to any customer who purchases sewerage service from the Company for the purpose of resale.
- 2.8 Residential Customer shall mean a natural person at least 18 years of age in whose name a residential service account is listed and who is primarily responsible for payment of bills rendered for the service or any adult occupant whose name appears on the mortgage, deed or lease of the property for which the residential utility service is requested.

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#### Section 3. **General Rules and Information**

- 3.1 The Atlantic City Sewerage Company hereby adopts Regulations for Sewer utilities promulgated by the Board, which Regulations are incorporated herein by reference thereto. The Board is responsible for the final interpretation and enforcement of a utility's Tariff provisions and rates. The utility is bound by New Jersey's statutes and the Board's regulations. If a conflict should exist in the Tariff that is detrimental to the Customer, the Board's regulations supersede the Tariff provision absent specific approval to the contrary by the Board. A utility company may provide for more liberal treatment than that provided for in the Board's Regulations. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-1.3(i)).
- 3.2 The Company reserves the right, subject to approval of the Board, to change, take from, or add to the rules, regulations, terms and conditions as set forth herein.
- 3.3 The current Board-approved "Customer Bill of Rights" can be found on the Board's website at http://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/assistance/rights/.
- 3.4 A copy of this Board-approved tariff is available for public inspection both at the Company's office and at the Board, 44 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton, N.J. A copy is also available on the Company's website, www.acsewerage.com. If, after you review this tariff and discuss it with appropriate Company employees, you still have questions regarding clarification or interpretations, please contact the Board's Division of Customer Assistance in-person, by phone, toll free, at (800) 624-0241, or by mail. If you choose to write to the Board, please be sure to include your name, address and phone number (including the area code), and, if you are a Customer, please also include your account number.

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#### Billing, Deposits, Fees and Charges Section 4.

#### 4.1 Billing.

- The Company will not place the name of a second individual on the account of a (a) Residential Customer unless specifically requested by said second individual. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3.2(b)).
- (b) All customers connected with the Company's sewerage system shall be billed in accordance with the Schedule of Sewer Rates contained in this tariff and approved by the Board.
- (c) Tenant-customers shall not be required to pay for charges associated with a diversion of service where, after investigation, the Company has determined a diversion of service has occurred. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-7.8(b)).
- (d) Annual bills for sewerage service shall be rendered on a cycle billing basis (identified as the Billing Year) for all customers beginning in January and each month thereafter through August of each year based on the quantity of water estimated to be used during the year. A billing adjustment for any difference between actual and estimated usage will be made the following year in the corresponding billing cycle.
- Billing Year. The Billing Year shall be that twelve-month period which the (e) Company designates for the purpose of billing, the beginning date of which shall be the first day of the month between the months of January and August, inclusive, nearest to but after the date of commencement of service to the property. Customers initiating service from September through December will be placed into the January billing cycle and a prorated bill will be rendered for the period from the date of the establishment of service through December 31.
- (f) <u>Payment for Sewerage Services</u>. All charges for sewerage service shown in the bill are payable in advance for the twelve (12) month period commencing on the first day of the appropriate Billing Year. The customer may pay one-half (1/2) of the total charges within 30 days of the day the bill is rendered and the remaining one-half (1/2) within six months of the date the bill is rendered. Accounts will be considered delinquent when payment of at least one-half (1/2) of the total charges is not received within thirty (30) days of the date the bill is rendered. The second, payment is considered delinquent if not received six months after the bill is rendered.

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## Billing, Deposits, Fees and Charges (Continued)

#### 4.2 Deposits.

- (a) While the Company does not typically request a deposit from a customer upon initiation of new service, it reserves the right to do so consistent with the Board's regulations.
- (b) The Company may require that a customer pay a deposit if the customer fails to pay a bill within fifteen (15) days after the due date as set forth in this tariff, or after service has been discontinued for non-payment. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3.4)
- Deposits shall be calculated in accordance with the Board's regulations. (c) (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3.4(b)).

#### 4.3 Fees and Charges.

- Reconnection Fee. If service is discontinued at the Company's direction, (a) including but not limited to discontinuance for Nonpayment of outstanding amounts due, a reconnection fee of \$100.00 shall be payable prior to restoration of service.
- (b) Dishonored Payments Charge, Where the customer submits a negotiable instrument to the Company in payment of a bill, charge, or deposit due and such instrument is subsequently dishonored or uncollectible for any reason, the customer may be required to pay a Dishonored Payments Charge equal to the costs incurred by the Company from the financial institution related to dishonor.
- Property Tampering Fee. Where service has been discontinued and the customer (c) damages the Company's equipment used to effectuate the discontinuance, including but not limited to items such as locks and plugs, the customer shall be responsible for payment of a fee in the amount of \$250 or the actual costs of replacement of the property, whichever is less, prior to restoration of service.

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## Billing, Deposits, Fees and Charges (Continued)

(d) Hazard Fee. Where the Company is required, at the direction of the health department, to cleanup a hazard on the customer's premise caused by a discharge, backup or other overflow from a vent at the customer's property that is a result of (a) customer malfeasance following discontinuation of service, whether for nonpayment or otherwise; (b) when the system is improperly used by a customer placing prohibited materials into the system; and/or (c) when the system on the customer's side of the service connection box is not properly maintained, the customer shall be responsible for payment of a fee equal to the costs incurred by the Company to clean up the hazard on the customer's premise.

#### Section 5. **Deferred Payment Arrangements**

- 5.1 A customer is entitled to at least one deferred payment plan in one year. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-7.7(b)(2)).
- Customers who enter into a DPA for past due charges are not relieved of the obligation to 5.2 pay current bills on time. In the event that a customer defaults on the terms of the DPA, ACSC may discontinue service upon due notice. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-7.7(f)).
- 5.3 For Residential Customers, the Company will renegotiate or amend the terms of an existing DPA upon satisfactory evidence provided by the Residential Customer that his or her financial circumstances have changed significantly due to factors beyond his or her control.
- 5.4 For customers receiving Non-Residential Service, DPAs will not be offered for a term of longer than three (3) months. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-7.7).

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## **Section 6. Discontinuance of Service**

- 6.1 Customer Requests for Discontinuance of Service.
  - (a) Customers wishing to discontinue service must give notice to that effect. Where such notice is not received by the Company, the customer shall remain liable for service until the final reading of the water meter. Customers wishing to discontinue service must (i) obtain a final meter reading from the ACMUA; (ii) have the water meter removed from the property; and (iii) submit satisfactory proof of same to the Company. All charges shall be prorated upon establishment and termination of service.
  - (b) Customers who properly notify the Company during the Billing Year, in accordance with the above requirements, will be given a prorated credit or rebate. With respect to the Volumetric Collection and Treatment charges the credit or rebate will be calculated on the basis of the actual water used according to the water meter reading on the day service is discontinued.
- 6.2 <u>Discontinuance of Service at the Company's Direction For Reasons Other than Nonpayment</u>. Sewerage service may be curtailed, suspended or discontinued by the Company for any of the following reasons, upon reasonable notice to the extent reasonably possible (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.1(a)):
  - (a) In order to make permanent or temporary repairs, changes or improvements in any part of the Company's system;
  - (b) For compliance in good faith with any governmental order or directive, regardless of whether such order or directive subsequently may be held to be invalid; or
  - (c) For any of the following acts or omissions on the part of the Customer:
    - (i) Refusal of reasonable access to the Customer's premises;
    - (ii) Tampering with any facility of the Company or the ACMUA;
    - (iii) Fraudulent representation in relation to use of service;
    - (iv) Providing the Company's service to others without approval of the Company;
    - (v) Refusal to contract for service where such contract is required;

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## Discontinuance of Service (Continued)

- Connecting and operating in such a manner as to interfere with the service (vi) of the Company or other Customers;
- Failure to comply with any reasonable standard terms and conditions (vii) contained in the Company's tariff;
- (viii) Where the condition of the Customer's installation presents a hazard to life or property; or
- Failure to repair any faulty facility of the Customer. (ix)
- 6.3 <u>Discontinuance of Service at the Company's Direction – For Nonpayment.</u> Sewerage service may be curtailed, suspended or discontinued by the Company for nonpayment of sewer charges or for nonpayment of a deposit, upon due notice given, where the Residential Customer's arrearage is (i) more than \$100.00, or (ii) more than three (3) months in arrears. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.2(a)).
  - Customers shall be provided with at least fifteen (15) days from the postmark date (a) of the outstanding bill to pay the sewer bill, or any deposit amount requested by the Company. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.3).
  - (b) The Company shall make good faith efforts to contact Residential Customers over 65 years of age by phone prior to discontinuance of service, in addition to notice by first class mail. This effort may consist of an appropriate inquiry set forth on the notice informing customers that they may designate a third party to receive notice of discontinuance. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.4(c)).
  - (c) The Company shall send the notice of discontinuance of service to the Residential Customer and also to any third party previously designated by the Residential Customer upon request to the Company. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.4).

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## Discontinuance of Service (Continued)

- The Company shall not discontinue service to any Residential Customer for up to (d) 60 days if a medical emergency exists within the residential premises, which would be aggravated by a discontinuance of service, provided that the Residential Customer has: (i) provided reasonable proof of inability to pay; and (ii) submitted the requisite Medical Certificate to the Company, as well as any requisite recertification after 30 days have elapsed. At the end of such period of emergency, the Residential Customer shall remain liable for payment of all services rendered. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.2(i)).
- (e) A Customer is responsible for payment of all undisputed charges. If a Customer disputes a charge, and after notice to the Company the dispute is unable to be resolved, the Customer has the right to make a request to the Board for an investigation of the disputed charge within five (5) business days after notice to the Company of the dispute. If such a request is not made within five (5) business days, the Customer's service may be discontinued for nonpayment in accordance with the Board's regulations. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-7.6).
- 6.4 The Company shall not discontinue service involuntarily to Residential Customers except between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday, unless there is a safety-related emergency. There shall be no involuntary discontinuance of service on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays or on the day before a New Jersey State holiday or on a New Jersey State holiday absent such emergency. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.1(c)).
- 6.5 Landlord-Tenant Inquiry. The Company shall make every reasonable effort to determine if a landlord/tenant situation exists at the residential premises being served and to provide notice to tenants prior to discontinuance of service. Where feasible, the Company shall offer affected tenants continued service to be billed in the tenant's name. (N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.6). The utility shall not be held to the requirements of this provision if the existence of a landlord-tenant relationship could not be reasonably ascertained.

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#### Section 7. **Connections, Interceptors and Fixtures**

#### 7.1 Connections.

- The Company shall own and maintain all house lateral connections from its mains (a) to the curb line of the property. A curb box enclosing a "cleanout tee" shall be installed by the Company on the sidewalk near the curb for each house lateral connection. The customer shall maintain the house lateral connection from the curb box into and on the premises of the customer.
- (b) Property owners wishing to connect their premises with the sewer line of the Company shall make application at the office of the Company and must agree to the terms, conditions and rates as set forth in this and subsequent tariffs of the Company.
- In accordance with the National Standard Plumbing Code adopted by the Uniform (c) Construction Code of the State of New Jersey, no storm drainage system of a building shall be connected directly or indirectly to the sanitary drainage system. The Company adopts the above provision and prohibits the drainage of storm water into its collecting system.
- (d) The customer shall be responsible for maintaining and repairing the "building drain" and "building sewer."

#### 7.2 Interceptors.

- Grease interceptors shall be provided by the customer, at the customer's expense (a) when, in the opinion of the Company, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing grease or other ingredients harmful to the sewer system or sewage treatment plant or processes.
- (b) The size and type of each interceptor shall be determined according to maximum volume and rate of discharge, and each interceptor shall be approved by the Company. No wastes other than those requiring separation shall be discharged into any interceptor.
- A grease interceptor or interceptors for major installations shall be mechanical (c) devices which are not solely dependent upon employees, for maintenance and operation.

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## Connections, Interceptors and Fixtures (Continued)

All interceptors shall be installed upon the lines of the customers in such a manner (d) and location that they are accessible for inspection by the employees of the Company.

#### 7.3 Fixtures.

- (a) No fixture or fixtures shall be installed in the premises of a customer in a basement or at any other point, unless the trap of the fixture is at least 6 inches above the level of the manhole cover of the Company's main which is nearest to the connection to said customer's premises. This provision does not apply where adequate Pumping facilities are installed on the premises. The Company may require the removal of any fixture which violates this provision and failure to remove such fixture within the time specified shall be cause for the Company to discontinue service and refuse further services until the offending fixture or fixtures are removed.
- (b) The Company shall not be liable, whatever the cause, for any damages, resulting from a backing up of sewerage ("overflows") through open traps in fixtures located in basements or otherwise or from open joints in sewer lines located in basements or elsewhere, where such traps or lines are less than 6 inches above the level of the manhole cover of the Company's main which is nearest to the connection to the premises of the customer. Nor shall the Company be liable for damages resulting from overflows due to: (i) disconnection of service; (ii) changes to the sewer system by the customer, tenant, or their agent that are not permissible under this tariff or consistent with the BPU's regulations, and/or approved by the Company in writing; or (iii) discharges in to the system by the customer, tenant, or their agent that are not permissible discharges.

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#### **Section 8. Nature and Extent of Service**

- 8.1 Sanitary sewerage service for all dwellings will be furnished to all customers at rates set forth in the Company's Schedule of Annual Rates.
- 8.2 Sanitary sewerage service for business, commercial and industrial buildings will be furnished at rates set forth in the Company's Schedule of Annual Rates, but only to the extent that the demand therefore will not interfere with the maintenance of adequate sanitary sewerage service to other customers of the Company.
- 8.3 All persons, whose premises are connected with the Company's sewerage system or otherwise discharging sewage, wastes, water or other liquids either directly or indirectly into the sewerage system, shall be charged for such service according to the Company's Schedule of Annual Rates.
- 8.4 The Company will endeavor to provide regular and uninterrupted supply sewerage service through its facilities. However, if because of emergencies beyond the control of the Company, including governmental mandate, service is interrupted, irregular, defective or fails, the Company will not be liable for damages or inconvenience resulting there from.

#### **Wastewater Discharge Requirements** Section 9.

- 9.1 Since the Company is a customer of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority and must comply with the Rules and Regulations of said Authority, the Company has adopted the Authority's Requirements as to Wastewater Discharged: copies, of which, are available Authority's website. http://www.acua.com/uploadedFiles/Site/Wastewater/ACUA%20Schedule%20B.pdf.
- 9.2 No customer shall discharge or cause to be discharged into the Company's system any storm water, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, sub-surface drainage, foundation or sump pump drainage, uncontaminated cooling water or industrial process water. Such wastes can harm either the sewerage system or treatment process and/or equipment, have an adverse effect upon the receiving stream for the treated wastewater, or an otherwise endanger life, limb or property or create a nuisance.

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#### Section 10. **Annual Charges For Sewerage Service**

- 10.1 The annual charge for any customer within the service territory of the Company, having any connection with the Company's sewerage system, shall be the sum of:
  - (a) a fixed charge, for each size water meter; and
  - (b) volumetric collection and sewerage treatment charges, based on the quantity of water used as measured by the water meter or meters then in use, owned by the customer or the entity rendering water service to the customer. For customers without water meters, the fixed and volumetric charges shall be based upon Company's estimate of annual water consumption until such time as a water meter is installed.

#### Section 11. **Special Provisions Relating to Water Usage**

- 11.1 Water Used from Sources Other Than the Public Water System.
  - The Company bills for sewerage service based upon metered water flow, (a) registered upon meters of the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority.
  - (b) In the event any person or entity discharging sanitary sewage, industrial waste, water or other liquids into the Company's sewerage system, either directly or indirectly, obtains part or all of the water used by him, her or it from sources other than a metered public water system, such user of other water shall, at his, her or its own expense, install and maintain water meters satisfactory to the Company for measuring all water usage other than that obtained from the public water system, and the quantity of water used to determine the volumetric collection and treatment charges as set forth in this tariff shall be the sum of the quantity measured by all such meters plus the quantity of water obtained from the public water system. The Company may estimate appropriate fixed charges.
  - (c) Company personnel shall at all reasonable times have authority to enter the customer's premises and have access to water meters owned by the customers for the purpose of recording the reading of those meters.

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## Special Provisions Relating to Water Usage (Continued)

- Each water meter, whenever installed by the customer, shall have been tested for (d) accuracy at the customer's expense, and thereafter, shall be tested, and recalibrated, periodically as deemed necessary by the Company, also, at the customer's expense. Testing and recalibration shall be performed and certified to by qualified independent contractors with copies of the certifications delivered to the Company.
- 11.2 Exemption for Water Not Entering the Sewerage System.
  - (a) In the event it is established to the satisfaction of the Company that a portion of the water measured by the water meters, does not and cannot enter the sanitary sewerage system, then the Company may determine, in such a manner and by such method as it may deem practical, the portion of the metered water entering the sanitary sewerage system, or the Company may require or permit the installation of additional meters in such a manner as to determine either the quantity of water excluded from the sewerage system (i.e., diverted water meter), or the quantity of water actually entering the sanitary sewerage system (i.e., outflow meter). The sewerage volumetric charges shall be based upon the quantity of water estimated, measured or computed by the Company to be actually entering the sanitary sewerage system.
  - (b) Persons requesting consideration for a reduction in the sewerage volumetric charges because of water not entering the sanitary sewerage system shall make written application to the Company for such consideration, giving the name of the individual, firm, industry or business, address, account number, and supporting data fully describing sources of water, as well as disposition of water alleged not to be entering the sewerage system. The application shall be accompanied by a drawing to approximate scale showing the plan of the property, water source, sewer layout, existing meters and proposed meters to determine the quantity of flow entering or not entering the sewerage system. The cost of furnishing, installing, and maintaining any meters other than those utilized to measure water purchased from the ACMUA shall be borne by the customer.

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Special Provisions Relating to Water Usage (Continued)

The type, size, location, arrangement, and maintenance of such meters shall be subject to the approval of the Company. Every effort shall be made to put the meter in a location easily accessible to the Company.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, no reductions in sewerage volumetric charges will be considered for the following reasons: pool evaporation, running toilets, and sprinkler systems without a diverted water meter on file with the Company.

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## **SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL RATES**

## APPLICATION

## General

This schedule is applicable to all sewer customers located within the service territory of the Company.

All annual sewer bills shall be calculated according to the method set forth in the Terms and Conditions of Service of the Company's Tariff.

The volumetric collection and treatment charges shall be applied to the nearest one-tenth of a thousand cubic feet of water measured by a water meter.

Each water meter shall be considered a separate billing unit in applying the rates set forth in this Schedule.

## Multiple Customers Served By a Single Water Meter

Except for buildings consisting of three or more dwelling units (e.g. apartment complexes and condominiums), when a single water meter serves more than one customer, (1) the volumetric collection and treatment charges shall be divided and billed equally among the customers served by the same water meter; and (2) the annual fixed charge shall be divided and billed equally among the customers of record served by the same water meter; however, in no such case shall multiple customers, served by a single water meter, be billed less than the annual fixed charge for a 5/8-inch water meter.

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## SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL RATES

## Fixed Charge

All customers shall pay the following annual fixed charge, based on the size of the water meter used in rendering of water service:

	Total Annual
Size of Meter	Fixed Charge
5/8"\$	289.10
3/4	501.90
1	1,477.30
1-1/2	3,642.00
2	7,220.40
3	. 17,590.00
4	. 36,995.00
6	119,595.00
8	175,869.00
10 or larger	282,633.00

## Volumetric Collection Charge

In addition to the annual fixed charge, all customers shall pay \$9.098 for each 1,000 cubic feet of metered water, measured to the nearest one-tenth.

## Purchased Sewerage Treatment Adjustment Clause (PSTAC) Charge

In addition to the annual fixed charge and the volumetric collection charge, all customers shall pay \$22.889 for each 1,000 cubic feet of metered water, measured to the nearest one-tenth, for sewerage treatment costs assessed to the Company by the relevant treating wastewater facility.

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Atlantic City, New Jersey

# I/M/O THE PETITION OF THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR SEWERAGE SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES BPU Docket No. WR21071006 OAL Docket No. PUC 06672-2021-S

## **SERVICE LIST**

**Board of Public Utilities** 

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# I/M/O THE PETITION OF THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR SEWERAGE SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES BPU Docket No. WR21071006 OAL Docket No. PUC 06672-2021-S

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## I/M/O THE PETITION OF THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY TO DECREASE THE LEVEL OF ITS PURCHASED SEWERAGE TREATMENT ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE BPU Docket No. WR21091128

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## I/M/O THE PETITION OF THE ATLANTIC CITY SEWERAGE COMPANY TO DECREASE THE LEVEL OF ITS PURCHASED SEWERAGE TREATMENT ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE BPU Docket No. WR21091128

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