

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC.
NOTICE OF FILING OF A REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF
COST RECOVERY OF LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENTS
BPU Docket No. WR24010057

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on January 19, 2024, Aqua New Jersey, Inc. (“Aqua” or the “Company”) filed a Petition with the Board of Public Utilities (the “Board” or “BPU”) of the State of New Jersey seeking approval of, among other things, its plan for the replacement of Company and customer-owned lead service lines pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, 48:2-21.1, and 58:12A-45 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12. Aqua’s proposed plan included information regarding its approach to the replacement of lead service lines in its service territory as well as an associated cost recovery mechanism (“LSLR Plan”). Specifically, the LSLR Plan includes replacement of customer-owned lead service lines, including goosenecks and galvanized pipes, as required by the LSLR Law (together, “LSLs”) over the next 10 years.

Following the Board’s approval of this LSLR Plan on October 9, 2024, the Company made its first semi-annual filing with the Board on November 1, 2024 (“First LSLR Cost Recovery Request”), setting forth the total amount of its actual and forecasted project costs incurred in connection with the replacement of customer-owned LSLs from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. In addition, the Company provided its most current estimate of the total remaining LSL replacement costs to be incurred through December 31, 2027.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that virtual public comment hearings on the Company’s First LSLR Cost Recovery Request have been scheduled as follows:

December __, 2024 at 4:30 P.M.

Dial in to 1-_____ and enter conference ID: #, or join by video conference at [link] via the internet.

December __, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

Dial in to 1-_____ and enter conference ID: #, or join by video conference at [link] via the internet.

The virtual public comment hearings will be presided over by a hearing officer designated by the Board. Representatives of the Company, Board Staff and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel will participate in the virtual public hearings.

Whether or not you attend the virtual public hearings, written and/or electronic comments may be submitted to the Board. While all comments will be given equal consideration and will be made part of the final record of this proceeding, the preferred method of transmittal is via the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Search for the Docket Number WR24010057, and post by utilizing the “Post Comments” button. Emailed comments may also be filed with the Secretary of

the Board, in pdf or Word format, to board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov. Written comments may also be submitted to the attention of the Honorable Sherri L. Golden, Secretary of the Board of Public Utilities, 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 350, Trenton, NJ 08625-0350. Persons submitting written comments should include Docket No. WR24010057 in their submissions.

Notice of the First LSLR Cost Recovery Request was served on the clerk, executive or administrator of each municipality and county within the Company's service area, as applicable. Such notice has also been served, together with the First LSLR Cost Recovery Request and all exhibits, upon the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel, who will represent the interests of ratepayers in this proceeding. Copies of the Company's First LSLR Cost Recovery Request filing are available for inspection on Aqua's website at www.aquawater.com by first selecting New Jersey and then selecting Recent Regulatory Filings. Further information and copies of the First LSLR Cost Recovery Request filing may also be obtained at the Board's Offices located at 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625. Any members of the public who wish to inspect the Company's filing at the Board should contact the Board's Division of Case Management at 609-292-0806 or Board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

The November 1, 2024 First LSLR Cost Recovery semi-annual filing with the Board sets forth the total amount of actual and forecasted project costs incurred in connection with the replacement of customer-owned LSLs from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Although not being collected as a result of this First LSLR Cost Recovery filing, this filing also provides total project costs estimated to be incurred annually in connection with the replacement of customer-owned LSLs for the remainder of the three (3) years of the LSLR Plan approved by the Board (each six month period, hereinafter a "Subsequent Surcharge Period"). The total amount to be recovered through each surcharge will also include carrying costs based on the Company's embedded cost of long-term debt authorized by the Board in the Company's rate proceeding applicable to the period during which costs were incurred and updated accordingly when new base rate case proceedings occur and new base rates are approved by the Board.

The fixed monthly LSLR surcharge will be assessed to all rate classes. The average monthly bill impact for the project costs associated with replacing customer-owned LSLs will vary depending on the actual amount of expense incurred by the Company during the replacement period. On October 9, 2024, the Board authorized the commencement of the monthly LSLR surcharge and set a fixed monthly rate of \$4.51 for residential customers with either a 5/8" or 3/4" meter. In the First LSLR Cost Recovery Request filing, the Company has proposed an increase of 5 cents in the fixed monthly LSLR surcharge to become effective on January 1, 2025. Thus, a residential customer will see his or her monthly bill increase \$0.05 or approximately .0008% of the total monthly bill for the average residential customer with a 5/8" meter using 6,000 gallons per month.

Any relief determined by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers of the Company in such manner and, in such amounts or percentages, as the Board may deem appropriate. The Board may choose to impose a greater portion of the increase on any present or future class or classes, group or groups of customers, may exclude from any increase any of the foregoing, or may vary the amount of percentage increase applicable to any of the foregoing.

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE FULL PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, PLEASE SUBMIT ANY REQUESTS FOR NEEDED ACCOMMODATIONS AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE HEARINGS TO _____ AT _____ (PHONE) AND _____(EMAIL).

AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC.
BY: NATALIE CHESKO
PRESIDENT