

3. On September 18, 2023, the Township enacted an Ordinance (Ordinance No. 18-2023) which grants to the Company a franchise to maintain, repair, replace and operate wastewater facilities, and provide wastewater service to a portion of the Township identified on Exhibit A to the Ordinance (the “Franchise Area”). A copy of the Ordinance is attached to this Petition as Attachment 1. Under the terms of the municipal consent, the Company is authorized to maintain, repair, replace and operate wastewater service facilities within the Franchise Area for the purpose of providing wastewater service to the Franchise Area. As noted above, a map depicting the Franchise Area is attached to the Ordinance as Exhibit A.

4. The proposed Franchise Area is partially developed and abuts a portion of the State Route 322 corridor which has been identified for further residential and commercial development. Currently, there is no public sewer service in the Franchise Area. To the extent wastewater service is available in the proposed Franchise Area, it is provided by private septic systems and cesspools. Elsewhere in the Township, wastewater service is provided by the municipality,¹ but the Township does not have the resources necessary to provide public wastewater service to the proposed Franchise Area. Aqua, however, provides wastewater service to several nearby communities including Woolwich Township, which is directly adjacent to the proposed Franchise Area.

5. Aqua’s intention is to provide service to the proposed Franchise Area via an interconnection with its existing facilities in Woolwich Township. Initially, Aqua will serve a commercial facility along State Route 322. The facilities needed to provide wastewater service will be installed by the developer of the commercial facility and contributed to Aqua.² With respect to existing premises in the proposed Franchise Area, those homes and buildings may

¹ Water service is provided by New Jersey American Water Company, and is not the subject of this proceeding.

² The following facilities are required to serve the Franchise Area: a pump station with a capacity of 80,000 gpd and approximately 2,700 feet of main to be installed in the Township.

connect to Aqua's wastewater facilities but they will not be required to do so. Aqua has procured wastewater treatment services from the Gloucester County Utilities Authority.

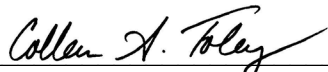
6. Upon installation of any required wastewater facilities, Aqua proposes to provide wastewater service to customers located in the Franchise Area at its then Board-approved rates, including any purchased sewerage treatment adjustment clause then in effect, effective as of the time wastewater service commences. It is the intention of the Company that the system will be included in, and served by, the Company's Southern Division, located in Blackwood.

7. Approval of Aqua's request in this matter is in the public interest and will not have any adverse consequences on the wastewater service currently provided to customers. Aqua will be able to bring significant financial, technical and managerial resources to bear in serving customers located in the Township. Moreover, given the location of the Franchise Area, it would be costly for the Township to construct wastewater facilities to service this portion of the Township. Approval of the Franchise grant will allow Aqua to provide service to customers without incurring the expense and disruption of a significant main extension project. Further, because the required facilities will be contributed, there should be no rate impact on existing customers. Indeed, over time Aqua expects the proposed franchise expansion to be beneficial to existing customers.

8. All correspondence regarding this Petition should be addressed to Colleen A. Foley, Saul Ewing LLP, One Riverfront Plaza, 15th Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102-5490, with copies to Adam Burger, Aqua New Jersey, Inc., 10 Black Forest Road, Hamilton, NJ 08691.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner, Aqua New Jersey, Inc., respectfully requests that the Board of Public Utilities approve the municipal consent as described herein, and approve the Company's use of its Board-approved rates, billed on a monthly basis, effective as of the time wastewater service commences to customers located in the Township, and to grant such other relief as the Board deems just and reasonable.

Respectfully submitted,
Saul Ewing LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
Aqua New Jersey, Inc.

By: 
Colleen A. Foley

DATED: October 12, 2023

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
 :
COUNTY OF MERCER)

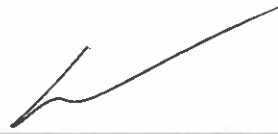
Adam Burger, of full age, being duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and says:

1. I am Director of Operations of Aqua New Jersey, Inc., Petitioner in the foregoing Petition, and in that capacity I am authorized to make this Verification on behalf of Aqua New Jersey, Inc. in this matter.

2. I have reviewed the within Petition and exhibits thereto, and the same are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

3. I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dated: October 12th, 2023



Adam Burger

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

Colleen A. Foley, an Attorney-at-Law of the State of New Jersey, hereby certifies as follows:

1. I am a Partner at the firm of Saul Ewing LLP, attorneys for Petitioner, Aqua New Jersey, Inc., and in that capacity I make the within Certification.
2. On this date, I caused the attached Petition to be filed by electronic mail with the Secretary of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.
3. On this date, I caused two (2) copies of the attached Petition to be served by Federal Express on the Clerk, Township of Harrison.
4. On this date, I caused two (2) copies of the attached Petition to be served by Federal Express on each of the Clerk, Gloucester County Board of Commissioners, and the Gloucester County Administrator.
5. On this date, I caused the Petition to be served by email on each of the Division of Rate Counsel and the Department of Law & Public Safety.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I understand that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Saul Ewing LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
Aqua New Jersey, Inc.

By: Colleen A. Foley
Colleen A. Foley

DATED: October 12, 2023