**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF )**

**AQUA NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR ) BPU DKT. NO. WR 2506\_\_\_\_\_**

**APPROVAL OF A RESILIENCY AND )**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEM ) PETITION**

**INVESTMENT CHARGE FOUNDATIONAL )**

**FILING AND RELATED SURCHARGE )**

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

 Aqua New Jersey, Inc. (the “Company,” “Aqua” or “Petitioner”), a public utility corporation of the State of New Jersey, with its principal office at 10 Black Forest Road, Hamilton, New Jersey 08691, hereby petitions the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (the “Board” or “BPU”) for authority, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.S.A. 48:19-29 *et seq.* and such statutes and regulations that may be deemed applicable by the Board, to establish and implement a Resiliency and Environmental System Investment Charge (“RESIC” or “Surcharge”) for the recovery of certain costs of investments commencing July 1, 2025 related to: (i) compliance with requirements to address existing and emerging chemical elements or compounds; (ii) installation of new plant or equipment or replacement of existing plant or equipment to further, maintain, enhance or improve resiliency, health, safety, or environmental protection for Aqua’s customers, employees, or the public; and (iii) addressing treatment media and related equipment for both existing and emerging chemical elements and compounds. If the Foundational Filing included with this Petition is approved as proposed, the Company would invest in RESIC-eligible property and increase annual revenues to reflect those in-service investments, in increments occurring at approximately six-month intervals, by no more than $1,234,168, which amount is no more than 2.5% of the Company’s annual revenues ($49,366,736), which is the cap on RESIC surcharge revenues.

 The proposed Surcharge would commence approximately eight months after approval of this filing, as eligible infrastructure investments are renewed or replaced, placed in service, and are used and useful in providing utility service to customers.

 In support of this Petition, Aqua states as follows:

 1. Aqua is engaged in the production, treatment and distribution of water and collection of wastewater within its defined service territory within the State of New Jersey in portions of the following counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Sussex and Warren. As of December 31, 2024, Petitioner provides service to approximately 56,681 water and fire service customer connections and 7,049 wastewater service customer connections.

 2. On January 16, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2023, c. 315, establishing the “Resiliency and Environmental System Investment Charge Program” for cost recovery of eligible investments made by certain utilities, which statute was subsequently codified at N.J.S.A. 48:19-29 *et seq.*

 3. This Petition is filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:19-29 *et seq.* and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.1 *et seq*.

 4. In support of this Petition, Aqua submits the attached Foundational Filing (Exhibit A) for review and approval by the Board. The Foundational Filing includes the following information required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:19-31:

 a) Projected annual capital expenditures on RESIC-eligible projects for a three-year period, identified by major categories of expenditures (Exhibit A-Sections 1 through 6 and App. A – Project List).

 b) Actual annual capital expenditures on RESIC-eligible projects for the previous three years, identified by major categories of expenditures (Exhibit A-Sections 1.2 and 2).

 c) An engineering evaluation identifying the specific projects to be included in the proposed RESIC, (Exhibit A-Sections 2 through 6 and App. A – Project List).

 d) Vintage, condition, or other similarly relevant and reasonably available information about the eligible infrastructure that is being rehabilitated or replaced, as applicable (Exhibit A-Sections 2 through 6).

 e) A forecast of RESIC-eligible capital expenditures for a three-year period setting forth annual planned capital expenditures (Exhibit A-App. A – Project List).

 f) The maximum dollar amount, in aggregate, the utility seeks to recover through the RESIC under the Foundational Filing (Exhibit A-App. B – Proposed RESIC Assessment).

 g) The estimated rate impact of the proposed RESIC on Aqua customers (Exhibit A-App. B – Proposed RESIC Assessment).

 h) A proposed form of public notice that includes the maximum dollar amount that is sought to be recovered through the RESIC as well as an estimated rate impact on customers for the entire period (Exhibit A-App. C – Proposed Form of Public Notice).

 5. If implemented in the semi-annual increments described above, the maximum allowable monthly surcharge under N.J.S.A. 48:19-29 *et seq.* would be approximately $1.42 per month for a five-eighths inch (5/8”) meter or meter equivalent at the end of the period covered by the Foundational Filing. This estimated maximum monthly surcharge is an approximate number only and may be higher or lower depending on many factors, including but not limited to changes in the number of customers served by the Company. The maximum proposed surcharges on meters of other sizes are set forth in Appendix B of the Foundational Filing. Such surcharges will be implemented incrementally, after semi-annual RESIC filings, as set forth at N.J.S.A. 48:19-32, and may not generate revenues that exceed the RESIC cap as defined in N.J.S.A. 48:19-29 and described above.

 6. Notice of this Petition, and the effect thereof, will be served by mail upon the clerks of municipalities, the Boards of County Commissioners and the County Executives within the Petitioner’s service area at least 20 days before the date set for public hearing, which notice shall include and specify the time and place of said hearing.

 7. Customers will be notified of this filing and the effect thereof as well as the time and place of the public hearing by publication of a Public Notice at least 20 days prior to the date set for the public hearing, in newspapers of general circulation within Petitioner’s service territory.

 8. Notice of this Petition and a copy of this filing have been served upon the Director, Division of Rate Counsel, via electronic mail as permitted by the Board’s Order of March 19, 2020 in Docket No. EO20030254.

 9. Notice of this Petition and a copy of this filing have been served upon the Department of Law & Public Safety via electronic mail as permitted by the Board’s Order of March 19, 2020 in Docket No. EO20030254.

 10. Proof of Service of the notices referred to herein will be filed with the Board.

 11. Petitioner respectfully submits that the investments proposed and rates requested by it herein are just and reasonable in all respects.

**WHEREFORE**, Petitioner respectfully requests that the Board find and determine as

follows:

 1. That the investments proposed and the rates requested in the attached Foundational Filing are just and reasonable; and

 2. That the Petitioner’s Foundational Filing is approved in all respects.

 Respectfully submitted,



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