



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

PREHEARING ORDER

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 01166-15

AGENCY DKT. NO. WR15010035

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC.,
FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED TARIFF RATES
AND CHARGES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE;
CHANGE IN DEPRECIATION RATES
AND OTHER TARIFF MODIFICATIONS.**

On February 25, 2015, a telephone prehearing conference was held in this case and the following procedures were settled:

1. **NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS AND ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED:**

A. Nature of Proceedings

The New Jersey American Water Company, Inc. (American Water) petitions the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to increase its tariff rates and charges for water and sewer service, change its depreciation rates, and implement certain other tariff revisions.

B. Issues to be Resolved

Issues to be resolved will include those surrounding the rate base, operation and maintenance expenses, revenues, and capital structure. Issues may also include those surrounding the Distribution System and Improvement Program. Any additional or more specific issues to be resolved have yet to be determined.

2. **PARTIES AND THEIR DESIGNATED ATTORNEYS OR REPRESENTATIVES:**

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3. **SPECIAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AS TO NOTICE OF HEARING:**

A form of notice of the public hearings has yet to be submitted by the parties.

4. **SCHEDULE OF HEARING DATES, TIME AND PLACE:**

Public hearings are scheduled for April 20-24, 2015, in Howell Township, Mt. Olive Township, Ocean City, and Westampton Township, NJ. The dates, times, and places in those locales are to be determined. Evidentiary hearings are scheduled for September 16-22, 2015, and September 24-25, 2015, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Office of Administrative Law, 33 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102.

5. **STIPULATIONS:**

A set of stipulations for the evidentiary hearing has yet to be agreed upon by the parties.

6. **SETTLEMENT:**

The parties are ordered to explore all settlement possibilities.

7. **AMENDMENTS TO PLEADINGS:**

None.

8. **DISCOVERY AND DATE FOR COMPLETION:**

The procedural schedule for discovery and pre-filed testimony was accepted by all the parties and submitted by American Water in a letter dated February 27, 2015. It is approved and attached by reference with one exception. There will be no evidentiary hearing on September 23, 2015.

9. **ORDER OF PROOFS:**

The parties will develop a schedule for the presentation of witnesses on a topic-by-topic basis.

10. **EXHIBITS MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION:**

To be determined.

11. **EXHIBITS MARKED IN EVIDENCE BY CONSENT:**

To be determined.

12. **ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FACT AND EXPERT WITNESSES:**

American Water estimates that it will call 16 witnesses; Rate Counsel estimates that it will call 7 witnesses; Haddon Township estimates that it will call 2 witnesses; OIW estimates that it will call 1 or 2 witnesses; Manasquan Customer Group estimates that it will call 1 witness; and Middlesex Water estimates that it will call 1 witness.

13. **MOTIONS:**

Intervenor status was granted for Haddon Township, Manasquan Customers Group (Shorelands Water Company, Inc., Borough of Avon-by-the-Sea, Borough

of Belmar, Borough of Keyport, Borough of Lake Como, Borough of Matawan, and Borough of Red Bank), Middlesex Water Company, and OIG (Cogen Technologies Linden Venture, LP; Johanna Foods, Inc.; Phillips 66 Company; Princeton University; and Rutgers University); and Mount Laurel Township MUA.

14. **OTHER SPECIAL MATTERS:**

The test year is the twelve-month period ending on July 31, 2015.

No change in designated counsel shall be made without leave of this tribunal if such change will interfere with the date for hearing.

This order may be reviewed by the Board of Public Utilities upon interlocutory review under N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.10 or at the end of the contested case under N.J.A.C. 1:1-18.6.

March 9, 2015 _____

DATE

dr



BARRY E. MOSCOWITZ, ALJ

DRAFT PROPOSED SCHEDULE
NJAWC 2015 Rate Case – WR15010035

- 1/9/15 Petition filed.
- 2/25/15 Prehearing conference.
- 3/18/15 First round Discovery Requests to NJAWC by Rate Counsel, Staff and
Intervenors served on or before this date.
- 3/20/15 Sign-off on notice.
- 3/30/15 Company responses to first round Discovery Requests due on or before this
date.
- 3/31/15 Publish public hearing notice.
- 4/17/15 Company files 8+4 update.
- 4/29/15 Second round Discovery Requests to NJAWC by Rate Counsel, Staff and
Intervenors served on or before this date.
- 4/20 to 4/24/15 4 public hearings (Westhampton, Ocean City, Mt. Olive, Howell Twp.).
- 5/8/15 Company responses to second round Discovery Requests due on or before this
date.
- 5/18 to 5/22 Settlement conferences at location to be determined.
- 6/5/15 Rate Counsel and Intervenor direct testimony (except for Middlesex Water and
Manasquan Customer Group) filed on or before this date, OIW Customer
Group does not serve Middlesex Water and Manasquan Customer Group at
this time.
- 6/8/15 End of first suspension period.
- 6/10/15 Middlesex Water and Manasquan Customer Group serve testimony on all
parties and OIW Customer Group serves them with its testimony.
- 6/15/15 NJAWC discovery served upon Rate Counsel and Intervenors
- 6/26/15 Response to NJAWC Discovery Requests due from Rate Counsel and
Intervenors on or before this date.
- 7/6/15 Company rebuttal testimony to be filed on or before this date.
- 7/17/15 Discovery Requests on Company rebuttal submitted on or before this date.
- 7/24/15 Company responses to Discovery Requests.

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OFFICE OF RATE COUNSEL

8/17/15 Company files 12+0 update.
9/16/ to 9/25 Evidentiary hearing dates.
10/8/15 End of Statutory Suspension Period.