

**SAUL EWING
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& LEHR ^{LLP}**

Stephen B. Genzer

Phone: (973) 286-6712

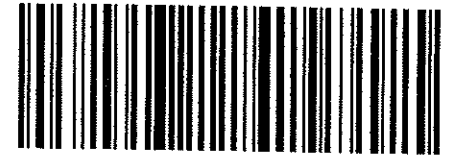
Fax: (973) 286-6812

Stephen.Genzer@saul.com

www.saul.com

ADMIN
TC
via email

September 13, 2021



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VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Shari Rose, Clerk
Manalapan Township
120 Route 522
Manalapan, NJ 07726

Re: In the Matter of the Petition of Gordon's Corner Water Company
for an Increase in Rates and Charges for Water Service
OAL Docket No. PUC 06235-21
BPU Docket No. WR21070979

Dear Ms. Rose:

Please be advised that Gordon's Corner Water Company ("Company"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey, has filed a Petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for an increase in rates and charges for water service. Attached hereto is a copy of the Board's Order dated August 18, 2021, Suspending Increases, Changes or Alterations in Rates for Water Service in this matter.

Virtual public hearings have been scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the following website:

<https://oal-nj-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1614733236?pwd=Z1hGSUV1WjVfY04rT3JxeGJZZXdTZz09>

Meeting ID: 161 473 3236

Passcode: 550205

A copy of the attached public notice is being published in the *Asbury Park Press*. You will note that public fire charges are proposed to be increased by only 2%, annually.

To view the Company's Petition and all supporting schedules visit:

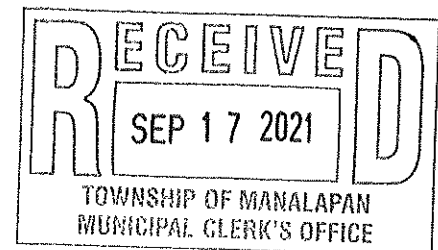
www.gordonscornerwater.com/rates-for-service/

If you have any questions concerning this matter, or require further information, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,


Stephen B. Genzer

SBG/jg
Enclosures



Stephen B. Genzer - Newark Managing Partner

One Riverfront Plaza, Suite 1520 • Newark, NJ 07102-5426 • Phone: (973) 286-6700 • Fax: (973) 286-6800

DELAWARE FLORIDA ILLINOIS MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS NEW JERSEY NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA WASHINGTON, DC

A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP



Agenda Date: 8/18/21
Agenda Item: VA

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF GORDON'S)
CORNER WATER COMPANY FOR AN INCREASE IN)
RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER SERVICE)
)
)
)
)
) BPU DOCKET NO. WR21070979

Parties of Record:

Stephen B. Genzer, Esq., Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, on behalf of Gordon's Corner
Water Company
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On July 9, 2021, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Gordon's Corner Water Company ("Gordon's Corner," "Company," or "Petitioner"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey, with its principal business office located at 27 Vanderburg Road, Marlboro, New Jersey, 07746, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), filed a verified petition for the authority to increase its base tariff rates and charges for water service amounting to approximately \$2,292,237 or 18.4%. Gordon's Corner serves approximately 15,000 customers in portions of Marlboro and Manalapan Townships, Monmouth County, New Jersey.

The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on August 15, 2021¹. The Company also indicated in the petition that it intends to implement the proposed rates on April 15, 2022, on an interim basis pursuant to law, applicable Board regulations, and only if the Board has suspended the effective date of the new rates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21 but not finally determined a new just and reasonable rate prior to that date.

According to the petition, the need for the base rate relief is driven, in part, by the increase in rates to SUEZ Water Matchaponix, Inc., granted by the Board in I/M/O the Petition of SUEZ Water New Jersey, Inc. for Approval of an Increase in Rates for Water/Sewer Service and other Tariff Changes, Docket No. WR20110729 (May 19, 2021), as well as the pending base rate case filed

¹ On July 12, 2021, the Company filed a letter with the Board stating that it will not implement rates on an interim basis prior to the effective date of the Board's initial suspension order in this matter.

by filed Middlesex Water Company in I/M/O Middlesex Water Company for Approval of an Increase in its Rates for Water Service and other Tariff Changes, Docket No. WR21050813. The Company further indicates it has also added \$3.5 million in rate base since its last base rate case due in large part to the installation of a new well to replace an existing well that has reached the end of its useful life and major upgrades to the Company's oldest groundwater treatment plant.

In addition, the petition states that the Company's existing tariff has become unjust and unreasonable because the revenues derived therefrom are insufficient to permit it (1) to meet the cost of operating the facilities used and useful in the service of the public; (2) to obtain a just and reasonable return on the investment in said facilities; (3) to maintain its financial integrity, attract capital, and to compensate investors for the risks assumed on a basis comparable to that in other business undertakings attended by corresponding risks; (4) to encourage good management and furnish incentive for efficiency; to continue to furnish safe, adequate and proper service, and (5) to maintain its facilities in such condition as to discharge its public duties.

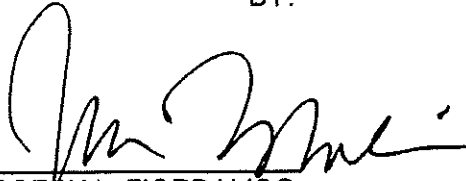
It appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until December 15, 2021, unless the Board prior to that date, makes a determination disposing of the petition, or enters an Order further suspending the proposed revisions;
- (2) Petitioner shall, at least 10 days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition by the Office of Administrative Law, file with this Board and with the Office of Administrative Law (33 Washington Street, Newark, N.J. 07102), proof of compliance with the Notice provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12(b) and (c), which Notice shall include a statement that any relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers on any rate or schedule as the Board may determine; and
- (3) Petitioner shall serve copies of this Order upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Division of Rate Counsel (140 East Front Street, 4th Floor, Post Office Box 003, Trenton, N. J. 08625-0003), the clerk of the affected municipalities, the clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the affected county and, where appropriate, the executive officer of the affected county within its service area. Service of this petition, notice of hearings and this Order may be made simultaneously. Proof of service of the Order shall be filed with the Board within 15 days of the date of this Order.

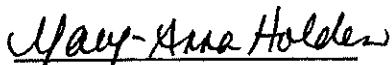
This Order shall be effective on August 25, 2021.

DATED: 8/18/21

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



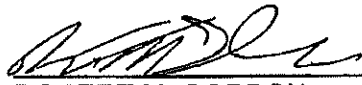
MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF GORDON'S CORNER WATER COMPANY FOR AN
INCREASE IN RATES AND CHANGES FOR WATER SERVICE

DOCKET NO. WR21070979

SERVICE LIST

<p>Stephen B. Genzer, Esq. Shane P. Simon, Esq. Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr One Riverfront Plaza, Suite 1520 Newark, NJ 07102-5426 sgenzer@saull.com ssimon@saull.com</p> <p>David G. Ern, President Gordon's Corner Water Company 27 Vanderburg Road Marlboro, New Jersey, 07746 dgern@gordonscornerwater.com</p> <p>Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Floor Post Office Box 003 Trenton, NJ 08625-0003</p> <p>Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director sbrand@rpa.nj.gov</p> <p>Brian Lipman, Litigation Manager blipman@rpa.nj.gov</p> <p>Susan McClure, Esq. smcclure@rpa.nj.gov</p> <p>NJ Department of Law and Public Safety Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex Public Utilities Section 25 Market Street, P.O. Box 112 Trenton, NJ 08625</p> <p>Pam Owen, Assistant Section Chief pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov</p> <p>Brandon Simmons, DAG brandon.simmons@law.njoag.gov</p> <p>Meliha Arnautovic, DAG meliha.arnautovic@law.njoag.gov</p>	<p>Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350</p> <p>Aida Camacho-Welch Secretary of the Board board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov</p> <p><u>Division of Water</u></p> <p>Mike Kammer, Director Mike.kammer@bpu.nj.gov</p> <p>Megan Lupo, Esq. Chief Bureau of Conservation and Engineering Megan.lupo@bpu.nj.gov</p> <p>Rupal Patel, Principle Engineer Rupal.patel@bpu.nj.gov</p> <p>Kyle Felton, Rate Analyst Kyle.felton@bpu.nj.gov</p>
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**PROPOSED NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
GORDON'S CORNER WATER COMPANY
NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASE
IN RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER SERVICE
(SERVING CUSTOMERS IN PARTS OF MARLBORO AND
MANALAPAN TOWNSHIPS)
BPU Docket No. WR21070979
OAL Docket No. PUC 06235-21**

TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on July 9, 2021 Gordon's Corner Water Company (the "Company"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, and N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.1, filed a Petition with the Board of Public Utilities of the State of New Jersey (the "Board"), for a revision in its rates for water service. The Company believes that this increase is necessary in order for it to be able to continue to provide safe, adequate and proper service to its customers and to prevent the impairment of financial integrity. The Company is requesting an increase in annual revenue of \$2,292,237 over pro forma present revenues of \$12,481,735, which represents an increase of approximately 18.4%.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that virtual public hearings on the Company's Petition have been scheduled on October 13, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the following website:

<https://oal-nj-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1614733236?pwd=Z1hGSUV1WjVfY04rT3JxeGJZZXdTZz09>

Meeting ID: 161 473 3236
Passcode: 550205

One tap mobile
+16692545252,,1614733236#,,,,*550205# US (San Jose)
+16468287666,,1614733236#,,,,*550205# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)
+1 646 828 7666 US (New York)
+1 551 285 1373 US
+1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 161 473 3236
Passcode: 550205

An Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Law will preside over the virtual public hearings. Virtual hearings will continue, if necessary, on such additional dates and at such times as determined by the presiding Administrative Law Judge. Members of the public are invited to participate and express their views on the proposed rate increase. Such comments will be made a part of the final record in the proceeding. Whether or not you participate in the virtual public hearings, written

comments may be submitted to Hon. Tricia M. Caliguire, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Law, P.O. Box 49, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625-0049 or to Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary, Board of Public Utilities, 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 350, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625-0350 and the New Jersey Division of the Rate Counsel, 140 East Front Street, 4th Floor, P.O. Box 003, Trenton, New Jersey, 08624, making sure such letter contains **BPU Docket No. WR21070979 and OAL Docket No. PUC 06235-21**

The following comparison of present and proposed rates permits customers to determine the effect upon them of the proposed increase in rates:

GORDON'S CORNER WATER COMPANY
COMPARISON OF PRESENT AND PROPOSED RATES

GENERAL METERED SERVICE

Monthly Service Charge:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Dollar Increase</u>	<u>Percentage Increase</u>
5/8"	\$16.25	\$21.20	\$4.95	30.5%
3/4"	24.38	28.02	3.64	14.9%
1"	40.63	41.87	1.24	3.1%
1-1/2"	81.23	76.01	-5.22	-6.4%
2"	129.96	116.97	-12.99	-10.0%
4"	406.13	289.16	-116.97	-28.8%
6"	812.30	570.60	-241.70	-29.8%
8"	1,300.43	1,582.62	282.19	21.7%
GMS Rate per 1,000 Gallons:	\$5.70	6.79	\$1.09	19.14%
Bulk Rate per 1,000 Gallons: (Englishtown Borough)	\$5.70	5.70	\$0.00	0.00%
PWAC	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

PRIVATE FIRE SERVICE

Monthly Fire Service Charge

2"	\$7.51	\$7.51	\$0.00	0.00%
4"	37.46	37.46	0.00	0.00%
6"	74.90	74.90	0.00	0.00%
8"	119.89	119.89	0.00	0.00%

PUBLIC FIRE SERVICE

Annual Fire Service Charge

	<u>Present</u> <u>Rates</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Rates</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Increase</u>	<u>Percentage</u> <u>Increase</u>
Hydrant Charge	\$422.86	\$439.77	\$16.91	4.00%

AVERAGE MONTHLY BILL FOR A TYPICAL CUSTOMER

<u>Average</u> <u>Monthly Usage</u>	<u>Present</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Increase</u>	<u>Percentage</u> <u>Increase</u>
7,000 Gallons	\$56.15	\$68.74	\$12.59	22.4%

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 customer, may exclude from any increase any of the foregoing, or may vary the amount of percentage increase applicable to any of the foregoing.

The complete schedules for the proposed rates are part of the Petition filed with the Board, which was served upon the Director, Division of Rate Counsel and the Office of the Attorney General. Applicable schedules are attached to the Notice of Filing of Increased Rates served on the Clerks of Municipalities, Clerks of Fire Districts and Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in the service area of the Company. Further information and copies of the Petition may be obtained at the Board's offices located at 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 350, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625 or at the Company's offices located at 27 Vanderburg Road, Marlboro, New Jersey, 07746. The Petition and all attachments may also be viewed at:
<http://gordonscornerwater.com/rates-for-service/>

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE FULL PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, PLEASE SUBMIT ANY REQUESTS FOR NEEDED ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THESE VIRTUAL HEARINGS, INCLUDING INTERPRETERS, AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THIS HEARING BY CONTACTING DAVID G. ERN OF GORDON'S CORNER WATER COMPANY at (732) 946-9333, Ext. 209.

Gordon's Corner Water Company
27 Vanderburg Road
Marlboro, New Jersey 07746
By: David G. Ern, President