

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report: March 27, 2018

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEW JERSEY  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

0-422  
(Commission  
File Number)

22-1114430  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

1500 RONSON ROAD, P.O. BOX 1500, ISELIN, NEW JERSEY 08830  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(732)-634-1500  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item. 8.01. Other Events**

Announcement that effective March 26, 2018 Middlesex Water Company has received approval from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for a \$5.5 million increase in its base water rates, as set forth in the attached press release.

Section 9 – Financial Statements and Exhibits

**Item 9.01 – (d) Exhibits**

[Press release dated March 27, 2018 announcing that Middlesex Water Company has received approval from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for a \\$5.5 million increase in its base water rates that go into effect April 1, 2018.](#)

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf of the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY  
(Registrant)

s/A. Bruce O'Connor  
A. Bruce O'Connor  
Vice President, Treasurer and  
Chief Financial Officer

Dated: March 27, 2018

**MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY  
RATE INCREASE APPROVED**

**ISELIN, NJ (March 27, 2018)** Middlesex Water Company (**NASDAQ:MSEX**) reported today that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has approved a settlement agreement that grants Middlesex a \$5.5 million, or 7.2%, increase in its customers' base water rates to be effective April 1, 2018.

In its initial October 2017 filing with the BPU, Middlesex originally had sought an increase of \$15.3 million to recover costs for increases in chemicals, energy, technology, taxes, labor, benefits as well as a return on its capital investment on the upgrades and improvements to its utility plant. During the pendency of this rate case, the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "2017 Tax Act") was signed into law. Under the 2017 Tax Act, the maximum corporate income tax rate was changed from 35% to 21%, which reduced the amount of additional revenues Middlesex required in its base rate filing by \$4.9 million to \$10.4 million, or a 13.5% adjusted increase request. Part of Middlesex's initial filing also included a request for regulatory accounting treatment for \$28.7 million of accumulated deferred tax benefits associated with required adoption of tangible property regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service. The settlement agreement allows for a four-year amortization period of the deferred tax benefits as well as immediate and prospective recognition of the tangible property regulations tax benefits in future years.

"We believe the outcome of this rate matter will position Middlesex effectively to invest up to \$305 million over the next five years under the company's Water for Tomorrow capital program at the lowest possible cost to our customers," said Dennis W. Doll, Middlesex President and Chief Executive Officer. "Ongoing timely reinvestment in infrastructure is critical to ensure water quality and service reliability. We appreciate the timely consideration by the regulators of our filing and their demonstrated support of Middlesex's commitment to our customers recognizing the numerous investments we continue to make in critical infrastructure to ensure public health, safety and overall quality of life in the areas we serve."

The new rates are designed to allow for a 6.50% overall rate of return on invested capital on a rate base of \$245.2 million. The authorized return on equity was set at 9.60%. Since 2000, Middlesex has doubled its investment in utility plant. Water for Tomorrow is expected to grow utility plant investment by 70% within five years.

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## About Middlesex Water Company

Middlesex Water Company, organized in 1897, provides water and wastewater services to approximately 110,000 regulated customers in central and southern New Jersey and in the State of Delaware. Headquartered in Iselin, NJ, Middlesex Water is subject to various Federal and State regulatory agencies concerning water quality standards.

For additional information regarding Middlesex Water Company, visit the Company's web site at [www.middlesexwater.com](http://www.middlesexwater.com) or call (732) 634-1500.

*This release contains forward looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including, among others, our long-term strategy and expectations, the status of our acquisition program, the impact of our acquisitions, the impact of current and projected rate requests and the impact of our capital program on our environmental compliance. There are important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements including: general economic business conditions, unfavorable weather conditions, the success of certain cost containment initiatives, changes in regulations or regulatory treatment, availability and the cost of capital, the success of growth initiatives and other factors discussed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.*

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