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: July 18, 2018

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<u>NEW JERSEY</u> (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) <u>0-422</u> (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:

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company o

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. o

Item. 8.01. Other Events

Announcement that Middlesex Water Company's subsidiary, Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy) Inc. (USA-PA), has been awarded a contract to operate the City of Perth Amboy's water and sewer utilities under a 10-year contract, as set forth in the attached press release.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits

Exhibit

Number Description of Document

99.1 Press Release issued by Middlesex Water Company, dated July 18, 2018, announcing its subsidiary, Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy) Inc. has been awarded a contract to operate the City of Perth Amboy's water and sewer utilities.

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: July 18, 2018

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY SUBSIDIARY AWARDED CITY OF PERTH AMBOY OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT

Iselin, NJ (July 18, 2018) - Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy), Inc. (USA-PA), a subsidiary of Middlesex Water Company (NASDAQ: MSEX), has been awarded a contract to operate the City of Perth Amboy's water and sewer utilities commencing January 1, 2019 and extending through December 31, 2028. The effective date of the agreement coincides with the expiration of USA-PA's current operating agreement with the City that has been in place for the past 20 years. Under this agreement, USA-PA will help the City realize increased operating efficiencies as USA-PA continues to provide quality service to the residents of Perth Amboy. The contract has been awarded by the City Council and is pending final execution.

"We are pleased to have been again selected to operate Perth Amboy's water and wastewater utility systems," said Dennis W. Doll, President of Middlesex Water Company. "We have an excellent team in place who are highly skilled in managing the water treatment and distribution system and the wastewater collection system. They are experienced with meeting challenges associated with the City's infrastructure and are prepared to continue to help the City navigate through an increasingly challenging and complex regulatory environment," added Doll.

USA-PA first began operating the City's water and wastewater utilities in January 1999 under a 20-year agreement. As the current contract was nearing expiration, the City of Perth Amboy issued requests for competitive proposals to operate the systems under a new 10-year agreement. These proposals were evaluated by an independent review committee consisting of City officials and third-party consultants. After a thorough evaluation process, USA-PA was selected as the "most complete, dependable and responsive organization" to be the City's partner. Under the terms of this operation and management services agreement, Perth Amboy will retain ownership of its source of water supply, as well as its water treatment plant, storage, collection and distribution systems and related pumping stations. USA-PA will operate and manage the water, sewer and storm water facilities and will be paid \$67 million over the course of the ten year contract. In addition to daily operation, these fees will cover maintenance, minor system repair costs and management of the City's ongoing capital improvement program. The City of Perth Amboy will manage all billing and customer service work.

Middlesex Water Company, organized in 1897, is an investor-owned water utility and is engaged in the business of collecting, treating and distributing water for domestic, commercial, industrial and fire protection purposes. The Company is skilled in all facets of water supply and distribution including water and wastewater treatment and the development and management of watershed properties. Headquartered in Iselin, NJ, Middlesex Water supplies water on a retail basis to residents in Carteret, Edison, Metuchen, South Plainfield, South Amboy, Woodbridge and portions of Clark, New Jersey. Middlesex Water sells water under wholesale contracts to the City of Rahway, the Townships of Edison and Marlboro, the Township of East Brunswick, the Borough of Highland Park and the Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority.

For additional information regarding Middlesex Water Company, visit the Company's web site at 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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