

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

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

Date of Report: September 17, 2001

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEW JERSEY

0-422

22-114430

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(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

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(Commission  
File Number)

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(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

1500 RONSON ROAD, P.O. BOX 1500, ISELIN, NEW JERSEY 08830

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(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(732)-634-1500

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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Middlesex Water Company

Item 5. Other Events

NEWARK, DE and ISELIN, NJ -- September 17, 2001 -- Artesian Resources Corporation (NASDAQ:ARTNA) and Middlesex Water Company (NASDAQ: MSEX) today announces that they are in negotiations regarding the sale of Middlesex's Delaware subsidiary, Tidewater Utilities, Inc., to Artesian. Any agreement resulting from these negotiations would be subject to approval by the Boards of Directors of Artesian and Middlesex and the Delaware Public Service Commission.

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/ Marion F. Reynolds

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Marion F. Reynolds  
Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

Dated: September 17, 2001