

14:9-3.2 Periodic testing of water meters

(a) Unless it has been otherwise authorized by the Board, no utility furnishing metered water service shall allow a meter to remain in service for a period longer, or for a registration greater, than that specified in the table below without checking it for accuracy and readjusting it if found to be incorrect beyond the limits established in Section 3 (Determination of water meter accuracy) of this Subchapter:

1. $\frac{5}{8}$ inch meter, ten years or 750,000 gallons;
2. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch meter, eight years or 1,000,000 gallons;
3. One inch meter, six years or 2,000,000 gallons;
4. All meters above one inch, four years.

14:9-3.3 Determination of Water Meter Accuracy

(a) A water meter shall be considered correct if, when flowing water at both intermediate and full flow capacities, as set forth in the American Water Works Association M-6 Manual, it shows an error which is not greater than one and one half percent.

(b) An error at any flow capacity in excess of one and one half percent shall be subject to an adjustment of charges as defined in N.J.A.C. 14:3-4.7.

Amended by R.1991 d.147, effective May 6, 1991.
See: 22 N.J.R. 618(a), 23 N.J.R. 1449(a).

Adopted one and one half percent error margin.

Case Notes

Customers were not overcharged for water consumption, even though bill in question was four times higher than average consumption on customers' account; bill reflected reading obtained from meter which testing determined to be accurate. *Miele and Mooney v. Shorelands Water Company*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 65.

Homeowner not entitled to credit to sewerage bill for water utilized in swimming pool and sprinkler system; no application for water diversion meter. *Perelman v. Atlantic City Sewerage Company*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 138.

No showing of water meter defect; no refund for overbilling. *Aabdollah v. New Jersey American Water Company*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 73.

Record established that meter readings and billings reflected water consumption; no overcharges. *Presidential Apartments v. Hackensack Water Company*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 68.

Record established that confusing billing procedures and malfunctioning remote register warranted elimination of adjusted bill. *Magley v. New Jersey—American Water Company*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 13.

SUBCHAPTER 4. (RESERVED)**SUBCHAPTER 5. UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS****14:9-5.1 Adoption by reference of rules concerning preservation of records; water utilities**

(a) On September 14, 1972, the Board of Public Utilities, pursuant to authority of N.J.S.A. 48:2-1 et seq. and in accordance with applicable provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act of 1968, adopted by reference the "Regulations to Govern the Preservation of Records of Electric, Gas and Water Utilities" originally proposed to various states for adoption by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners as promulgated and published in April, 1972, for use by the electric, gas and water utilities.

(b) The Board of Public Utilities adopts these rules as its modified regulations governing the preservation and destruction of records for all classes of electric, gas and water utilities subject to its jurisdiction and as a supplement to its uniform system of accounts for all classes of electric, gas and water utilities.

(c) Copies of the full text of these rules are available for examination in the Board's offices at Two Gateway Center, Newark, New Jersey 07102, and are included in the Case Files in these dockets. Additional copies may be purchased from the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, P.O. Box 684, Washington, D.C. 20044.

R.1972 d.181, effective September 18, 1972.
See: 4 N.J.R. 241(b).

SUBCHAPTER 6. SMALL WATER COMPANY TAKEOVER ACT REGULATIONS**14:9-6.1 Purpose**

This subchapter implements the provisions of N.J.S.A. 58:11-59 et seq., commonly known as the "Small Water Company Takeover Act". This subchapter establishes procedures by which a small water company that does not comply with appropriate statutory and regulatory standards concerning actual or imminent public health problems may be acquired or "taken over" by the most suitable public or private entity pursuant to a joint order issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

14:9-6.2 Definitions

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings:

“Act” means the “Small Water Company Takeover Act”, N.J.S.A. 58:11-59 et seq.

“Actual or imminent public health problems” means any violations by a small water company of appropriate statutory and regulatory standards, including but not limited to the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Regulations, N.J.A.C. 7:10-1 through 13, which adversely affects the quality, pressure or volume of water delivered as determined by the Department. Violations by a small water company of appropriate statutory and regulatory standards that do not adversely affect the quality, pressure or volume of water delivered as determined by the Department shall not be considered actual or imminent public health problems for the purposes of this subchapter, including but not limited to, aesthetic water quality problems or minor design deficiencies.

“BPU” means the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

“Capable” means financially and operationally able to provide safe, adequate and proper water service for the customers of the small water company to be acquired currently or in the foreseeable future. BPU shall be consulted by the Department concerning any public or private water systems’ financial status.

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or his designated representative.

“Department” means the Department of Environmental Protection.

“Division” means the Division of Water Resources of the Department of Environmental Protection.

“Proximate” means and includes all public or private water companies, municipal utilities authorities established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:14B-1 et seq., municipalities or any other suitable governmental entities wherein the small water company provides service regardless of their ability to reasonably physically interconnect with the small water company to be acquired.

“Public Advocate” means the Department of the Public Advocate.

“Small water company” means any company, purveyor or entity, other than a governmental agency, that provides water for human consumption and which regularly serves less than 1,000 customer connections.

14:9-6.3 Construction

(a) This subchapter shall be liberally construed to permit the Department and BPU to discharge their statutory functions.

(b) The Department and BPU may jointly amend, repeal or rescind this subchapter from time to time in conformance with the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and any regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

14:9-6.4 Applicability

This subchapter shall apply to all small water companies within the State of New Jersey.

14:9-6.5 Severability

If any section, subsection, provision, clause or portion of these regulations is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this subchapter shall not be affected thereby.

14:9-6.6 Scope

(a) Any small water company not in compliance with appropriate statutory and regulatory standards, including but not limited to the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Regulations, N.J.A.C. 7:10-1 through 13, concerning actual or imminent public health problems as determined by the Department may be subject to the provisions of this subchapter.

(b) Violations by a small water company of appropriate statutory and regulatory standards not adversely affecting the quality, pressure or volume of water delivered as determined by the Department shall not be considered actual or imminent public health problems for the purposes of this subchapter.

14:9-6.7 Departmental action

(a) Prior to the implementation of procedures under the Act, the Department shall actively pursue appropriate and available enforcement options to bring a small water company into compliance with the appropriate statutory and regulatory standards concerning actual or imminent public health problems including but not limited to:

1. Issuance of directive letters;
2. Issuance of administrative orders;
3. Direct negotiation;
4. Appropriate legal proceedings; or
5. All other enforcement options deemed reasonable and appropriate by the Department consistent with its statutory mandate.

(b) A Departmental order issued on a case-by-case basis to a small water company concerning the availability of water, the potability of water and the provision of water at adequate volume and pressure may initiate the proceedings under the Act and this subchapter.

1. A Departmental order shall specify on a case-by-case basis a reasonable time period in which the small water company must comply with the appropriate statuto-

ry and regulatory standards concerning actual or imminent public health problems as determined by the Department and shall provide the public health problems as determined by the Department and shall provide the small water company with the opportunity for an evidentiary hearing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F et seq. to determine whether there has been compliance with appropriate statutory and regulatory standards.