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MIDDLESEX WATER CO
Form 8-K
August 09, 2005

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: August 9, 2005

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| NEW JERSEY ----- | 0-422 ----- | 22-1114430 ----- |
| (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) | (Commission File Number) | (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 of Middlesex Water Company second quarter 2005 earnings as set forth in the attached press release.

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/Kenneth J. Quinn

Kenneth J. Quinn
Vice President, General Counsel,
Secretary and Treasurer

Dated: August 9, 2005

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MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY REPORTS SECOND QUARTER EARNINGS

ISELIN, NJ, (August 9, 2005) Middlesex Water Company, (NASDAQ:MSEX), a provider of water and wastewater services in New Jersey and Delaware, announced a 3.0% increase in consolidated net income for the quarter ended June 30, 2005.

Second Quarter 2005 Results

Consolidated operating revenues for the quarter ended June 30, 2005, were \$18.4 million, up from \$17.8 million for the same period in 2004. Earnings applicable to common stock were \$1.9 million, and basic and diluted earnings per share were \$0.17 and \$0.16 respectively, which were comparable with the prior year.

Revenues from sales of water increased by \$0.9 million in the Middlesex system, which was primarily the result of a 9.5% base rate increase received in May 2004. This increase was partially offset by decreased water consumption by certain large industrial customers during the period. Continued customer growth and a base rate increase for the Company's Delaware subsidiary, Tidewater Utilities, Inc. (TUI), generated \$0.5 million of additional water revenues compared to the same period in the prior year; however, weather-related construction delays in the housing industry in southern Delaware have resulted in slower than anticipated customer growth in the current period. This has

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resulted in a reduction of service connection fees of \$0.1 million as compared to the same period in the prior year.

In spite of these construction delays, demand for new housing in Delaware continues to appear strong based upon applications for new water service. In addition to these requests for new water service, TUI is responding to numerous requests for proposals to provide residential wastewater services to proposed developments through the Company's newly-formed regulated wastewater subsidiary, Tidewater Environmental Services, Inc.

Operating expenses increased to \$15.1 million, primarily due to higher costs for payroll and benefits. The increased benefits costs were primarily related to pension, post-retirement and health care. Certain of these and other cost increases were unanticipated and are expected to adversely impact earnings for the remainder of 2005.

Six-Month Results

For the six months ended June 30, 2005, revenues increased to \$35.2 million, up from \$33.6 million for the same period in 2004. This increase is attributable to the factors discussed in the quarterly results above.

Operating expenses increased to \$29.3 million, up from \$28.3 million. Higher costs for payroll and benefits in the Middlesex system represented \$1.0 million of the increase. Operating costs associated with customer growth in Delaware accounted for \$0.5 million of the increase. Costs associated with a meter installation venture decreased \$1.1 million as compared to the prior year period, due to the completion of the original contracts. Depreciation expense increased \$0.3 million as a result of additional assets placed in service since June 30, 2004.

MORE-MORE-MORE

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For the six-month period ended June 30, 2005, earnings applicable to common stock were \$3.2 million, compared to \$2.8 million in the prior year. Basic and diluted earnings per share improved from \$0.26 to \$0.28 as a result of the increased earnings.

Board Declares Quarterly Dividend

The Company's Board of Directors approved a quarterly dividend of \$0.1675 per share, payable September 1, 2005, to common shareholders as of August 15, 2005. The Company has paid cash dividends in varying amounts for the past 90 years and the dividend has been increased in each year since 1973. Middlesex Water has a Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the Plan) under which dividends and optional cash payments can be used to purchase additional shares of Common stock. The Company is currently offering its shares at a 5% discount on all optional cash purchases and reinvested dividends under the Plan through December 1, 2005.

About Middlesex Water Company

Middlesex Water Company, organized in 1897, is an investor-owned water utility, serving customers in central and southern New Jersey and in the State

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of Delaware. The Company and its New Jersey subsidiaries - Pinelands Water Company and Pinelands Wastewater Company--are subject to the regulations of the Board of Public Utilities of the State of New Jersey. Middlesex Water operates the water and wastewater utilities for the City of Perth Amboy through its subsidiary, Utility Service Affiliates (Perth Amboy), Inc. The Company's Delaware subsidiaries, Tidewater Utilities, Inc., together with Southern Shores Water Company, and Tidewater Environmental Services, Inc., are subject to the regulations of the Public Service Commission in Delaware. These companies are also subject to various Federal and State regulatory agencies concerning water quality standards.

For additional information regarding Middlesex Water Company, visit the Company's website at www.middlesexwater.com or call (732) 634-1500.

 Certain matters discussed in this press release are "forward-looking statements" regarding the Company's results of operations and financial position. Such statements address future plans, objectives, expectations and events concerning various matters such as capital expenditures, earnings, litigation, growth potential, rate, regulatory matters, liquidity, capital resources and accounting matters. Actual results in each case could differ materially from those currently anticipated in such statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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Contact:
 Bernadette M. Sohler
 Director of Communications
 (732) 634-1500

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (Unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended June 30, 2005 | 2004 | Six Months E 2005 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| | | | |
| Operating Revenues | \$ 18,430,751 | \$ 17,769,913 | \$ 35,173,654 |
| Operating Expenses: | | | |
| Operations | 9,409,108 | 9,357,580 | 18,451,104 |
| Maintenance | 979,119 | 808,459 | 1,877,804 |
| Depreciation | 1,620,159 | 1,449,469 | 3,168,207 |
| Other Taxes | 2,163,520 | 2,026,107 | 4,246,654 |
| Income Taxes | 894,714 | 1,018,643 | 1,561,484 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 15,066,620 | 14,660,258 | 29,305,253 |

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| | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Operating Income | 3,364,131 | 3,109,655 | 5,868,401 |
| Other Income: | | | |
| Allowance for Funds Used During Construction | 140,456 | 80,721 | 350,906 |
| Other Income | 35,943 | 117,759 | 91,162 |
| Other Expense | (16,324) | (26,440) | (24,469) |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Total Other Income, net | 160,075 | 172,040 | 417,599 |
| Interest Charges | 1,578,078 | 1,391,364 | 2,960,170 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Net Income | 1,946,128 | 1,890,331 | 3,325,830 |
| Preferred Stock Dividend Requirements | 63,696 | 63,696 | 127,393 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Earnings Applicable to Common Stock | \$ 1,882,432 | \$ 1,826,635 | \$ 3,198,437 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Earnings per share of Common Stock: | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.17 | \$ 0.17 | \$ 0.28 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.16 | \$ 0.16 | \$ 0.28 |
| Average Number of | | | |
| Common Shares Outstanding : | | | |
| Basic | 11,392,964 | 11,068,164 | 11,380,290 |
| Diluted | 11,736,104 | 11,411,304 | 11,723,430 |
| Cash Dividends Paid per Common Share | \$ 0.1675 | \$ 0.1650 | \$ 0.3350 |