

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 19-W-0168 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of SUEZ Water New York, Inc., SUEZ Water Westchester, Inc., and SUEZ Water Owego-Nichols, Inc., for Water Service.

CASE 19-W-0269 - Joint Petition of SUEZ Water New York, Inc., SUEZ Water Westchester, Inc., and SUEZ Water Owego-Nichols, Inc., for Approval, Pursuant to New York State Public Service Law Sections 89-h and 108, to Merge and Become SUEZ Water New York, Inc.

NOTICE SOLICITING COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCING PUBLIC STATEMENT  
HEARINGS ON PROPOSED WATER RATES INCREASES AND PROPOSED MERGER

(Issued May 2, 2019)

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that comments are sought on two proposals submitted by SUEZ Water New York, Inc. (SWNY), SUEZ Water Westchester, Inc. (SWWC), and SUEZ Water Owego-Nichols (SWON) (collectively, the Companies). One proposal concerns the merger of SWWC and SWON with and into SWNY, and the other concerns amendments to SWNY's tariff schedule to increase the Companies' annual base revenue for the rate year ending January 31, 2021.

On March 4, 2019, the Companies filed a proposal to increase the Companies' annual base revenue by approximately \$31.5 million. The proposed rates would result in varying bill impacts to customers in the different service territories. The proposed rates would increase the average residential monthly water bill by about \$10.50 (18.6%) in Rockland County; \$5.40 (11.5%) in the City of Rye and the villages of Rye Brook and Port Chester in Westchester County; and \$2.70 (5.6%) in Forest Park. Customers in other parts of Westchester would see a

reduction in their monthly bill of \$4.20 (7.5%) per month and customers in Owego and Nichols would see no change in their monthly bills.

Included in the Companies' proposal is a plan to invest \$440 million over the next five years for infrastructure projects, including the Deforest Reservoir Upgrade, the Westchester Disinfection Project, and the planned increase in main replacement projects. In addition, the Companies are seeking to consolidate their rules and regulations under one tariff (SWNY's P.S.C. No. 1 - Water) and merge certain rate design elements with the goal of eventually adopting uniform rates across all three Companies.

On April 10, 2019, the Companies filed a joint petition pursuant to Public Service Law §§ 89-h and 108 to merge the three separate companies, with SWNY as the surviving entity. Concurrent with the filing of the merger petition, Suez Water requested that the Commission consider the two proceedings together on a common record and schedule. The Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) overseeing these proceedings granted the motion to join Cases 19-W-0168 and 19-W-0269 for purposes of administrative efficiency. The petition regarding the merger of SWNY, SWWC, and SWON and the rate proceeding are now subject to the same schedule and processes and will be presented jointly for Commission consideration. Please note that, pursuant to the ALJs' ruling, all documents, including comments, must be filed in case number 19-W-0168 only.

The Companies' pre-filed testimony and exhibits in these proceedings may be reviewed online at the Department of Public Service web page ([www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov)) by searching under Case 19-W-0168. Under New York State Law, the Commission may adopt or reject the utilities' proposals, in whole or in part, or modify them. In doing so, the Commission will consider changes

proposed by the participating parties and the public. Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) are presiding over the gathering of public comments and all evidence relating to the proposals. Public statement hearings will be held in three locations to obtain public comments about these proposals.

To provide individuals with information about the filings, information sessions will be conducted before the public statement hearings. During these sessions, SUEZ Water representatives will provide a brief overview of the Companies' rate and merger proposals. In addition, the ALJs will provide a brief overview of the administrative process. These presentations will be followed by a brief opportunity for questions and answers. Each information session will conclude at least five minutes before the public statement hearing is scheduled to commence.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that opportunities for public information and comment will be held as follows:

**Tuesday, June 11, 2019**

Putnam County Training and Operations Center  
112 Old Route 6  
Carmel, New York 10512

Information session: 1:00 p.m.  
Public statement hearing: 2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 11, 2019**

Rye City Hall - Council Chambers  
1051 Boston Post Road  
Rye, New York 10580

Information session: 7:00 p.m.  
Public statement hearing: 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 12, 2019**

Rockland County Legislative Chambers  
11 New Hempstead Road  
New City, New York 10956

Information sessions: 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Public statement hearings: 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

At the public statement hearings, individuals will have an opportunity to make statements on the record about the Companies' proposals. Appointments to speak are not necessary; rather, attendees must complete a card requesting time to speak and people will be called in the order in which the cards are received. You need not provide written copies of comments because the public statement hearing will be transcribed and will be included in the record of these cases. Each public statement hearing will be held open for at least one-half hour and, where practicable, will be kept open until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements have been made.

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Department of Public Service's Human Resource Management Office at (518) 474-2520 as soon as possible. TDD users may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711. Individuals with difficulty understanding or reading English are encouraged to call the Commission at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this notice.

**Other Ways to Comment**

For those who cannot attend or prefer not to speak at a public statement hearing, there are several other ways to comment about this case to the Commission. Comments should refer to "Case 19-W-0168 - SUEZ Water Rates and Merger Petition."

**Internet or Email:** Go to [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), click on "Search," search using case number "19-W-0168" and then click the "Post Comments" button at the top of the page; or email comments to the Secretary for the Commission at [secretary@dps.ny.gov](mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov).

Alternatively, comments may be mailed or delivered to Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350.

**Toll-Free Opinion Line:** You may call the Commission's Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is set up to take comments about pending cases from in-state callers, 24 hours a day.

**Although comments submitted via these alternative means will be accepted throughout the pendency of these proceedings, they are requested by August 30, 2019.** All written comments received by the Department will become part of the record considered by the Commission. Comments provided through the Opinion Line are not transcribed, but a summary is provided to the ALJs and to the Commission for their consideration. Written comments may be viewed online (go to [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), click on "Search," search using case numbers "19-W-0168" and then click on the "Public Comments" tab).

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS  
Secretary