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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ

April 24, 2019

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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ

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VIA EMAIL and FEDERAL EXPRESS

Honorable Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, Suite 314
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Re: In the Matter of the Joint Petition for Approval of SUEZ Water New Jersey Inc.
for Approval of a Pilot Program to Facilitate the Replacement of Lead Service
Lines and a Related Cost Recovery Mechanism
BPU Docket No. WO19030381


Dear Secretary Camacho-Welch:

This firm represents Petitioner, SUEZ Water New Jersey Inc. ("SWNJ"), in the above-referenced matter. Enclosed for filing please find an original and ten (10) copies, plus one additional copy, of a letter which we understand has been agreed upon between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and SUEZ Water New Jersey Inc. Kindly stamp the additional copy "filed" and return it in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

As noted in numbered Paragraph 29 of the Petition (on pages 10 and 11), the Petitioner represented that as soon as a letter was agreed upon between SWNJ and NJDEP, we would provide it to the Board and include it as Exhibit F to the Petition. Please consider this filing as complying with that representation, and as a request that this attachment become Exhibit F to the Petition.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen B. Genzer



SBG/jg
Enclosure
cc: Attached Service List (via email only; w/encl.)

FORWARD
CASE MANAGEMENT
2019 APR 25 P 1:17
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ

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SERVICE LIST

In the Matter of the Petition of
SUEZ Water New Jersey Inc. for Approval of a Pilot Program to Facilitate the
Replacement of Lead Service Lines and a Related Cost Recovery Mechanism
BPU Docket No. WO19030381

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NOTICE TO SUEZ CUSTOMERS / PROPERTY OWNERS / RESIDENTS
REGARDING LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

Via Regular and Certified Mail

Date: _____

Dear SUEZ Customer / Resident / or Property Owner:

SUEZ is contacting you because we have determined the water service line partially owned by SUEZ and partially owned by the property owner at this address may contain lead materials and we are undertaking a lead service line replacement program. SUEZ will be replacing the portion of the water service line that it owns if it confirms the water service line contains lead and would also like to replace any lead service lines owned by the property owner at the same time. **If you are not the property owner, you should still read this letter for awareness regarding possible actions relating to the water service line serving this property and possible increase in lead levels in your drinking water. If you are not the property owner please contact us at 1 (800) 422-5987 to provide your landlord's or the new property owner's contact information. Only the property owner can agree to the replacement of their portion of the service line as requested below.**

The primary source of lead in drinking water is from individual lead service lines and from interior plumbing and fixtures that contain lead in homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems if absorbed by your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and developing fetuses that receive lead from the mother's bones. Children and fetuses absorb more lead into their bodies than adults and are more susceptible to its effects on brain development which can result in lowered IQ, ability to pay attention, and behavioral problems. Most children with elevated blood lead levels do not exhibit any symptoms, however effects may appear later in age. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

At SUEZ, our goal is to provide our customers with premier water service. As part of this effort, we will be replacing water mains, hydrants and service lines that are owned by SUEZ in the vicinity of the property. We have determined, along with EPA and the State DEP, that it is necessary to replace service lines that contain lead. Service lines are the individual pipes that run from the water main in the street to a home or building. Service lines consist of two portions. The first portion is the section of the service line from the water main to the curb stop which is owned by SUEZ (*See Blue Portion of Water Service Line Responsibilities Drawing on next page*). The second portion is the section from the curb stop to the home which is the responsibility of the property owner (*See Red Portion of Drawing on next page*). Most of SUEZ's service lines were installed well before it was known that lead in drinking water posed a health hazard.

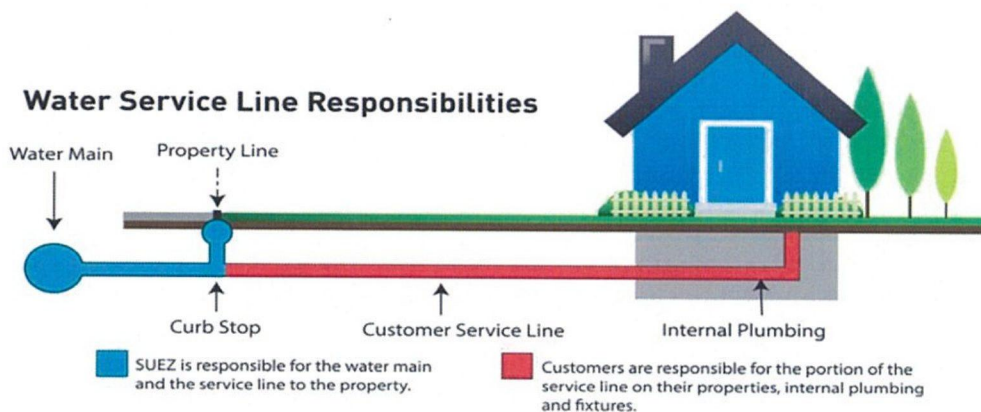
SUEZ is looking to partner with the property owner to replace the customer owned portion in addition to the utility owned portion of the service line (i.e., *Blue and Red Portions of drawing on next page*) if it contains lead. Under applicable drinking water regulations, this letter serves as (1) notice that SUEZ

will be replacing the portion of the service line it owns, (2) an offer to coordinate the replacement of the property owner's portion of the service line¹, and (3) notice of the risks and measures that can be taken to minimize lead exposure in the event that the property owner elects not to replace its portion of the service line².

After reading the rest of this letter, we ask that if you are the property owner that you please respond using the Opt-in or Opt-out portion of the confirmation form provided below by __/xx/2019 **While SUEZ can facilitate the replacement of the property owner's portion of the service line by connecting the property owner with a licensed plumber, the act of contracting with a plumber as well as the cost of the replacement work performed by the plumber is the property owner's responsibility.**

If the entire service line (i.e., Blue and Red portions) contains lead, SUEZ believes that it is in our collective best interest to have the entirety of the service line replaced rather than just the portion owned by SUEZ. If the property owner portion of the line is lead and it is not replaced, lead levels in drinking water can substantially increase for months or longer. To reliably reduce lead levels in drinking water both sections of a lead service line need to be replaced.

Again, please note that while SUEZ can facilitate the replacement of the property owner's portion of the service line by connecting the property owner with a licensed plumber, the act of contracting with the plumber as well as the actual cost of the replacement work performed by the plumber is the property owner's responsibility.



¹ According to Federal regulation (§)141.84(d): "A water system shall replace that portion of the lead service line that it owns. In cases where the system does not own the entire lead service line, the system shall notify the owner of the line, or the owner's authorized agent, that the system will replace the portion of the service line that it owns and shall offer to replace the owner's portion of the line. A system is not required to bear the cost of replacing the privately-owned portion of the line, nor is it required to replace the privately-owned portion where the owner chooses not to pay the cost of replacing the privately-owned portion of the line, or where replacing the privately-owned portion would be precluded by State, local or common law."

² According to Federal regulation (§)141.84(d)(1) where a property owners opts to not replace their portion of the service line and thus the water system is not replacing the entire length of the service line: "[a]t least 45 days prior to commencing with the partial replacement of a lead service line, the water system shall provide notice to the resident(s) of all buildings served by the line explaining that they may experience a temporary increase of lead levels in their drinking water, along with guidance on measures consumers can take to minimize their exposure to lead."

Regardless of whether the property owner chooses a plumber recommended by SUEZ or its own, SUEZ will still need to coordinate the replacement of the property owner's portion of the service line such that all service line replacement work can be performed at the same time. To that end it will be necessary for the property owner to provide its plumber's contact information to SUEZ as soon as possible should the property owner decide to opt-in.

On the following page, entitled: "Deciding Whether to Replace Your Lead Service Line," we have outlined important issues that the property owner should consider in determining whether it will join SUEZ in replacing the entirety of the service line. Also attached is an Opt-in or Opt-out confirmation form that the property owner should return immediately informing SUEZ of its decision.

SUEZ is hopeful that the property owner will join us in this important effort. In order to best coordinate the replacement work to be performed, it is critical that we hear from the property owner as soon as possible. If we do not receive a response from the property owner by ___/xx/2019 we will necessarily have to assume that the property owner is choosing not to participate in this service line replacement project. Should the property owner decide to opt out or fail to respond, the property owner will be missing out on an important opportunity to replace the entirety of the service line while SUEZ is performing critical utility work in the street. If you are the property owner and need more time to respond or are facing any extenuating circumstances, we ask that you please contact us at 1 (800) 422-5987 by ___/xx/2019 so that we may properly address your situation.

If the property owner does not reply to this letter by ___/xx/2019 or opts out of the program, then SUEZ will plan to commence work on the Suez-owned portion of the service line no sooner than 60 days from the date of this letter, on x/xx/2019.

If you are a resident of the property, you should contact the property owner to determine if the they will be replacing the property owner's portion of the service line.

If you as the property owner, customer, or resident have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please call us directly during regular business hours at 1 (800) 422-5987. If necessary, the 24-hour emergency telephone number for SUEZ is 1 (201) 487-0011.

DECIDING WHETHER TO REPLACE THE SERVICE LINE (CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS)

The primary source of lead in drinking water is from individual lead service lines/lead goosenecks and from interior plumbing and fixtures that contain lead in homes/buildings. In addition to the benefits to your water quality and your health and safety, replacing a lead service line can also potentially improve your property value. Plus, if your house has a lead service line, that means it is already old and more susceptible to break, costing money to repair in the future.

If you are the property owner and would like to have your section of the service line replaced because of the presence of lead:

- If the property owner portion of the line is lead and they do not opt to replace, lead levels in drinking water can substantially increase for months or longer. To reliably reduce lead levels in drinking water both sections of a lead service line need to be replaced.
- Depending on the length of your portion of the service line, your expenses could range from \$3,000 to \$8,000.
- Please be aware that there may be some inconvenience during the replacement process. It will be

necessary for the land above the line to be excavated during the replacement.

- The lead in your drinking water may also be influenced by other conditions unique to your property, in addition to the presence of a lead service line or lead gooseneck, such as the presence of lead solder or brass faucets, fittings and valves that may contain lead.
- Please return the Opt-in portion of confirmation form (see next page) as soon as possible to SUEZ Customer Service, 69 DeVoe Place, Hackensack, NJ 07601 or email the completed form to us at NJRegulatedLeadandCopperGroup@suez.com so that we may contact you to coordinate replacement.
- Once we have received your opt-in form as the property owner SUEZ will contact you to confirm receipt and to schedule a licensed plumber to contact you to coordinate an estimate of the cost to have your lead service line replaced and provide you the opportunity to coordinate with SUEZ if you have opted to contract a plumber on your own.
- We ask that if you are the property owner and do not want to replace your portion of the service line at this time that you please return the Opt-out portion of this letter (see next page) to SUEZ Customer Service, 69 DeVoe Place, Hackensack, NJ 07601 or email the completed form to us at NJRegulatedLeadandCopperGroup@suez.com as soon as possible so that we can coordinate our work.

POSSIBLE INCREASE IN LEAD LEVELS IN YOUR DRINKING WATER
(NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS)

If you are the resident and your section of the service line contains lead and the property owner does not opt to have it replaced:

- You and others who drink the water in your home/building may be exposed to higher levels of lead in your drinking water. The greatest risk is to young children (especially under age 6) and developing fetuses. Amounts of lead that won't hurt adults can slow down normal mental and physical development in the growing bodies of children.
- If the property owner does not reply to this letter by __/xx/2019 or opts out of the program, which offers to facilitate the replacement of the service line owned by the property owner, then SUEZ will plan to commence work only on the Suez-owned section of the service line no sooner than 60 days from the date of this letter, on x/xx/2019.
- If you are a resident of the property, you should contact the property owner to determine if the property owner will be replacing its portion of the service line.
- SUEZ will still replace the SUEZ-owned section of the service line, which is known to contain lead. You may have a temporary increase in lead levels in your drinking water. We will provide residents with flushing instructions and SUEZ will coordinate with residents to collect a sample of the water from the service line (flushed sample) within 72 hours after replacement to test for the presence of lead at no charge. SUEZ will report the results of this sampling to the property owner and residents within 3 business days of receiving the laboratory results.
- We urge you, whether you are the property owner or a resident of the property, to take every step possible to ensure that your drinking water is safe. Please refer to the list at the end of this letter, which provides information on other steps you can take to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Thank you for working with SUEZ. We appreciate your patience and coordination as we continue this important work.

CONFIRMATION FORM
(PROPERTY OWNER ONLY)

CHECK ONE:

- _____ **Yes** - I, the undersigned, request that the SUEZ Water New Jersey assist me with replacing the portion of the service line that I own. I understand that I am responsible for the cost of replacing my portion of the service line. I understand that during the replacement process the land above my portion of the service line may be excavated, and that there may be a temporary increase in lead in the drinking water related to this replacement process. I understand that, although it is most likely that any lead level in my water may be decreased to below the lead action level as a result of this service line replacement, there is no guarantee that levels will decrease after the replacement is complete. I understand that this document is merely an acknowledgement of this lead service line notice and is not a binding contract for the lead service line replacement.
- _____ **No** - I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I received the "Notice to Customers Regarding Lead Service Line Replacement" and decline to replace my portion of the service line at this time because I already had it replaced on _____ (date) with _____ (type of replacement pipe materials).
- _____ **No** - I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I received the "Notice to SUEZ Customers/Property Owners/Residents Regarding Lead Service Line Replacement" and decline to replace my portion of the service line at this time. I understand that during the replacement process of SUEZ's portion of the service line there may be a temporary increase in lead in the drinking water related to this replacement process. I understand that, although it is most likely that any lead level in my water may be decreased to below the lead action level as a result of this service line replacement, there is no guarantee that levels will decrease after the replacement is complete. I understand the health risks associated with having a lead service line and do not hold SUEZ accountable for any future health related concerns that may result from my lead service line.

Printed Name of Property Owner

Signature of Property Owner

Date

Daytime Telephone Number

Email

Property Address, City, State

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS**WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER?**

- **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. If you choose to purchase a water filter, read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.
- **Run your water to flush out lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it contains. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet for a duration of time based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. Although, toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health; however, you need to let the water run from the tap based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** In general, because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula from the hot water faucet. If you have been told that lead concentrations in your neighborhood are high or if you suspect you have a lead service line we recommend bottled or filtered water for drinking and preparing baby formula.
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- **Periodically Clean Your Aerators.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen usually found at the tip of indoor faucets. On a periodic basis, remove aerators connected to your faucets and remove/clean of any entrained debris and reinstall as per manufacturer instructions.
- **Proper maintenance of water softeners is important.** Not properly maintaining your water softener could have a negative impact on the corrosivity of the water in your home.
- **Test your water for lead.** Contact an independent laboratory to have the drinking water tested for lead. The NJDEP maintains a list of certified laboratories. To access the list please visit <https://www13.state.nj.us/DataMiner>. Once there, click **Search by Category** then select **Certified Laboratories** from the Report Category drop down box. Then click on the **Submit** button and under Certified Laboratories choose **Drinking Water Certified Lead Labs**.
- **Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about health effects of lead.
- **Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead and replace them.** Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free." However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Consumers should be aware of their current fixtures and take appropriate precautions.
- **Lead Service Line Replacement.** If it has been determined that the property owner's portion of the service line is lead, in addition to the utility-owned side, it is strongly recommended the property owner replace its portion of the lead service line in conjunction with SUEZ's lead service line replacement. Complete the Opt-In form above and return it to SUEZ Customer Service, 69 DeVoe Place, Hackensack, NJ 07601 or email us at NJRegulatedLeadandCopperGroup@suez.com.