



Gary S. Prettyman
Senior Director - Regulatory Business
461 From Road, Suite 400
Paramus, NJ 07652
Cell 201-286-2821
fax 201-750-5728
email Gary.Prettyman@suez-na.com

Via E-Filing

July 19, 2021

Aida Camacho-Welch
Secretary of the Board
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES'
RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
BPU DOCKET NO. AO20060471**

Dear Secretary Camacho-Welch,

SUEZ Water New Jersey Inc. is filing this letter in support of the motion filed by PSE&G, Elizabethtown Gas Company and South Jersey Gas Company ("Companies").

On July 6, 2021, the Companies filed a motion to the Board in the above referenced docket requesting that the Board extend the regulatory asset period to the end of 2023. SUEZ agrees that the grace period extension in EO-246 to December 31, 2021, to begin collection activities, will increase the arrearage balances. SUEZ's balance of arrearages greater than 30 days was approximately \$11M at June 30, 2021 vs. approximately \$5M at March 31, 2020.

SWNJ will continue to work with customers in setting up payment plans and providing assistance where available but water utilities do not have the funding assistance that the electric and gas companies have that comes from the Federal Government or its customers. There are ongoing discussions about establishing a Federal program called LIHWAP which would be similar to the LIHEAP program for electric customers. Additionally, SWNJ is also working with Staff and DCA to develop a program and process by which customers can receive assistance of federal funds provided under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116-260) and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. While these brand new programs are being developed, the provisions of those plans are not established and to set up and begin these programs will have costs which could be significant.



Because of the additional arrearages due to the grace period and unknown program costs as discussed above, SUEZ supports the Companies' motion.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which is highly stylized and difficult to decipher. It appears to be a cursive signature.

Gary S. Prettyman
Senior Director – Regulatory Business

- cc: James Cagle
Alan Weland
Michael Kammer
Stephanie Brand
Stacy Peterson
Bob Brabston