

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 133

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 2019

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator GERALD CARDINALE

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Suez North America to aggressively replace its lead service lines and urges certain State entities to hold company accountable to aggressively replace those service lines.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/26/2019)

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging Suez North America to aggressively
 2 replace its lead service lines and urging certain State entities to
 3 hold the company accountable to aggressively replace those
 4 service lines.

5
 6 **WHEREAS**, Suez North America is an American water service
 7 company headquartered in Paramus, New Jersey, that serves
 8 approximately 1.5 million customers in the State; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The provision of clean drinking water is one of the most
 10 important services that Suez North America provides to its
 11 customers in New Jersey; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Suez North America's most recent random water
 13 samplings taken from July 2018 to December 2018 showed
 14 dangerous levels of lead in the water in a percentage of homes
 15 tested due to the existence of lead in older service lines; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for
 17 pregnant women and young children; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Water quality for all New Jersey residents should be of
 19 paramount importance as a basic human right and the customers of
 20 Suez North America in New Jersey deserve a clean, safe source of
 21 water; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Suez North America has identified approximately 8,600
 23 customers who have lead service lines owned by the company; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Due to the presence of dangerous levels of lead in these
 25 service lines, Suez North America reached a tentative agreement
 26 with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
 27 (NJDEP) to replace only seven percent of these lead services lines
 28 annually; and

29 **WHEREAS**, This lead service line replacement plan tentatively agreed
 30 to by Suez North America and the NJDEP is to take nearly 15 years
 31 to replace all of the lead service lines; and

32 **WHEREAS**, A replacement plan that takes more than a decade to
 33 address what is a public health crisis is untenable, irresponsible,
 34 unsafe, and unfair to Suez North America customers in New Jersey;
 35 and

36 **WHEREAS**, Suez North America should commit to an aggressive
 37 replacement program for the removal of all lead service lines the
 38 company owns in as short a timeframe as possible; and

39 **WHEREAS**, This House calls on the Governor, the Commissioner of
 40 the Department of Environmental Protection, and the President of
 41 the Board of Public Utilities to hold Suez North America
 42 accountable and demand that they commit to an aggressive
 43 replacement plan for all lead service lines it owns; now, therefore,

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 45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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 47 1. This House urges Suez North America to take action to
 48 safeguard the drinking water of its New Jersey customers by

1 replacing all of its lead service lines in as short a time frame as
2 possible.

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4 2. This House urges the Governor, the Commissioner of the
5 Department of Environmental Protection, and the President of the
6 Board of Public Utilities to hold Suez North America accountable
7 and demand that the company commits to an aggressive
8 replacement plan for all its lead service lines.

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10 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
11 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor,
12 the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection,
13 the President of the Board of Public Utilities, the Chief Executive
14 Officer of Suez North America, and Suez North America's
15 corporate headquarters.

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STATEMENT

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20 This resolution urges Suez North America (Suez) to aggressively
21 replace its lead service lines in New Jersey and urges certain State
22 entities to hold the company accountable to aggressively replace
23 those service lines. Suez's most recent random samplings taken
24 from July 2018 to December 2018 showed dangerous levels of lead
25 in the water in a percentage of homes tested due to the existence of
26 lead in older service lines. Lead can cause serious health problems
27 if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources.
28 The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and
29 pregnant women.

30 Due to the presence of dangerous levels of lead in some drinking
31 water in the State, Suez has reached a tentative agreement with the
32 Department of Environmental Protection to replace only seven
33 percent of lead service lines annually. This lead service line
34 replacement plan is to take nearly 15 years to complete. The
35 customers of Suez in New Jersey deserve a clean, safe source of
36 water and water quality for all New Jersey residents should be of
37 paramount importance as a basic human right. Suez should be held
38 accountable and commit to an aggressive replacement plan for all
39 its lead service lines.