

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 70

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (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

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging Suez North America to
2 aggressively replace its lead service lines and urging certain
3 State entities to hold the company accountable to aggressively
4 replace those 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,
44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
46 *Jersey:*

AR70 SWAIN, TULLY

3

1 1. This House urges Suez North America to take action to
2 safeguard the drinking water of its New Jersey customers by
3 replacing all of its lead service lines in as short a time frame as
4 possible.

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

3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, the President of the Board of Public Utilities, the Chief Executive Officer of Suez North America, and Suez North America's corporate headquarters.

STATEMENT

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

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