

GENERAL RATE FILING

DIRECT TESTIMONY & EXHIBITS

OF PAULA L. MCEVOY

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SUEZ Water Rhode Island Inc.

SUEZ WATER RHODE ISLAND INC.
PAULA MCEVOY

1 **Q. Please state your name, title, affiliation and address.**

2 A. My name is Paula L. McEvoy. I am the Director of Engineering for the New
3 York Division of SUEZ (formerly United Water), which includes SUEZ Water
4 Rhode Island Inc (SWRI or the "Company"), SUEZ Water Owego-Nichols Inc,
5 SUEZ Water South County Inc., SUEZ Water Westchester, Inc. and SUEZ
6 Water New York Inc. My current business address is 360 West Nyack Road,
7 West Nyack, NY 10994

8
9 **Q. What are your duties of employment?**

10 A. Reporting directly to the Vice President and General Manager for the New
11 York Division, I am responsible for the development and implementation of the
12 capital plan for the Company, as well as the other New York Division
13 companies.

14
15 **Q. What is your education and professional background?**

16 A. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering (received 1995) and a Master's
17 Degree in Civil Engineering (received 1998), both from the New Jersey
18 Institute of Technology. I have worked at SUEZ since August of 1995. In
19 addition to my current role I have held positions in various engineering
20 capacities. As Director of Engineering, NY Division, I manage the capital
21 plans for the SUEZ Water New York Division. In this capacity, I direct the
22 design and construction of capital projects concerning sources of water
23 supply, Well improvements, water treatment plants, transmission and

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1 distribution systems, customer service lines, meters, distribution system
2 storage tanks, and pumping facilities. Additionally, I am a registered
3 professional engineer, licensed in the State of New Jersey.

4
5 **Q. Have you previously testified before any regulatory commissions?**

6 A. Yes. I prepared and supported pre-filed testimony to the Rhode Island
7 Commission for SUEZ. I have also prepared and supported testimony before
8 the Public Service Commission in New York.

9
10 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

11 A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe the capital needs of the Company,
12 specifically focusing on the major capital investment items. I will present the
13 Company's capital projects on Exhibit 5.

14
15 **Q. Please describe the Company's plans for capital investment.**

16 A. The main focus of the Company's plans for capital investment are the critical
17 areas of need specifically, water storage tank construction, underground
18 infrastructure improvements, the new office location, and other regular capital
19 improvements.

20 Over the past few years the Company has managed infrastructure
21 improvement projects, plus other capital projects and will soon complete the
22 construction of the Sherman Tank, which will replace the existing Sherman

1 Tank. These projects have improved the overall system reliability, flexibility,
2 fire flow availability, and resiliency for the benefit of our customers.

3
4 **Q. Please explain Exhibit 5.**

5 A. Exhibit 5 provides lists of capital projects that will be placed in-service for our
6 customers between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2019. I have provided
7 this information to Ms. Gil for inclusion in the Company's rate base.

8
9 **Q. Please describe the more significant projects shown on Exhibit 5.**

10 A. Following are brief descriptions of the more significant projects shown on
11 Exhibit 5. The discussion of the projects have been grouped into three
12 categories: storage tank replacement, infrastructure improvements, and
13 operations improvements:

14
15 **1. Storage Tank Replacement**

- 16 • **Sherman Tank:** The Sherman Tank is located in an easement
17 at the intersection of Allen Ave and South Road in South Kingston,
18 Rhode Island. This storage tank is utilized to maintain adequate
19 pressures in a distribution system, both during daily service and during
20 fire flow. The existing 500,000 Sherman Tank storage tank is a 42'
21 diameter, 50' tall ground storage tank. Sherman Tank, along with
22 Tower Hill Tank which was replaced in 2013, provides storage for the
23 majority of SWRI's customers. A study was prepared of the storage for

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1 SWRI and determined that there was insufficient effective storage in the
2 system, and specifically that the Sherman Tank has almost no effective
3 storage due to the elevations served relative to the operating range of
4 the tank. Effective storage is the volume of water in the tank when the
5 system has at least 35 psi.

6 The Rhode Island system has experienced boil water alerts
7 during peak periods because there was insufficient effective storage.
8 The new Sherman Tank will have a larger volume, at 1 Million Gallons,
9 and is at a higher elevation which provides improved pressures to the
10 system. The elevated tank allows for a higher volume of effective
11 storage and improved fire flow because the entire tank volume is
12 usable.

13
14 **Q. What is effective and ineffective storage?**

15 **A.** Water tank storage capacity can be divided into two categories: ineffective
16 storage, or unusable, and effective storage. Effective storage can be further
17 broken into emergency storage, fire flow storage and equalization storage.
18 Ineffective storage, is storage at an elevation in the tank that is below 20 psi in
19 the system and therefore is not usable. Due to construction at higher
20 elevations, most of the current Sherman Tank storage is ineffective storage.
21 The new Sherman Tank will be entirely effective storage, consistent with
22 AWWA standards.

23

1 **Q. Did the Company evaluate different water storage tanks?**

2 A. The Company evaluated both traditional steel elevated tanks and the
3 Aquastore Tank, which is a glass, fused to steel, coating system. The
4 Aquastore tank was selected for this project because of the lower life cycle
5 costs for the tank (ie: no tank painting because of the glass). Tower Hill Tank
6 is also a glass, fused to steel, coating system. The Sherman Tank is currently
7 under construction and is expected to be in service in June 2018.

8

9 **2. Infrastructure Improvements:**

10 • **Sherman Tank Water Main:** The Company owns and maintains
11 almost 155 miles of transmission and distribution water mains. This
12 project was to replace the 12" existing water line to the Sherman Tank
13 with a new 12" Ductile Iron water main to ensure the construction at the
14 site would not damage the older 12" main, affecting service to our
15 customers and construction at the site.

16 • **River Street Water Main:** This project is to replace
17 approximately 1500' of 6" water main with 8" Ductile Iron water main
18 because the existing water main has experienced several breaks and
19 leaks and requires replacement.

20 • **Pond Avenue Water Main:** This project is to replace
21 approximately 3000' of 6" water main with 8" Ductile Iron water main to
22 improve fire flow in the area.

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- **Ocean Avenue Water Main:** This project is to replace approximately 3000' of 10" water main with 12" Ductile Iron water main because the existing water main has experienced several breaks and leaks and requires replacement.

3. **Operations Improvements:**

- **Leasehold Improvements to relocate SWRI office:** In December of 2017 SWRI relocated their office to 10 High Street in South Kingston. This new location is in the downtown business area and is more convenient for customers. It provides an improved area for SWRI to meet with customers, vendors, or Regulators who need to conduct business on site. Additionally the new location has dedicated parking, improved storage and materials areas, better space for fleet vehicles and enhanced security.

- **Infor Below Ground Asset Management:** SWRI will be implementing Infor to improve the management of below ground assets. Infor is a paperless system that will allow management to oversee the work real time, rather than waiting for timesheets at the end of the day. All documentation is done on mobile devices and the documentation will be attached electronically to the job, including permits, photos, time. Infor is integrated with GIS and allows assets to be geocoded on the

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1 jobsite, improving future asset locations. SWRI plans to implement
2 Infor in 2018 as part of a corporate rollout of the system.

3 • **Facility Improvements:** SWRI plans to perform asset
4 evaluations in late 2018 and will make required upgrades as needed
5 including repaving access roads, roof or siding replacements, electrical
6 improvements, replacement of windows and doors and other
7 improvements as needed.

8
9 **Q. Please generally describe the Company's other capital projects included**
10 **in Exhibit 5.**

11 A. The remaining capital projects included in Exhibit 5 are somewhat self-
12 explanatory, but are required to maintain asset conditions to meet customer
13 service standards and regulatory requirements. Below is a general description
14 of these projects by major category.

15 • **Treatment:** This category includes replacement of chemical
16 equipment and other treatment equipment as needed to maintain the
17 treatment production capability and meet water quality standards /
18 regulations.

19 • **Pumping:** This category includes the replacement of well
20 pumps to meet the system water demands, and replacement / upgrade
21 of SCADA equipment required to provide effective system monitoring
22 and control.

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1 • **Transmission and Distribution**: This category includes new
2 and replacement water mains, valves, and hydrants. All of these
3 projects are needed to meet the demands in the distribution system,
4 replace inoperable valves or damaged sections of water main and
5 replace damaged hydrants.

6 • **Services**: This category includes the installation of new
7 domestic services to meet the growth in the system and replacement
8 services to improve water quality and maintain supply / pressure.

9 • **Meters**: This category includes the installation of meters for new
10 customers and replacing meters in accordance with regulatory
11 requirements. Replacement meter reading equipment is also included
12 to maintain efficient and effective meter reading operations.

13 • **Information Technology**: This category includes replacement
14 of computers that are required to maintain efficient operations.

15 • **General**: This category includes new and replacement tools and
16 work equipment, and the replacement of office furniture and
17 equipment as required for efficient operations.

18
19 **Q. Is the Company aware of any significant projects that may occur after**
20 **the rate period?**

21 **A.** The Rhode Island Water Resource Board is evaluating the Mink Brook Aquifer
22 in the Chipuxet watershed and may determine that withdrawals from this

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1 aquifer need to be reduced. If this occurs, The Company will need to find an
2 alternative water source.

3

4 **Q. Does the Company have any plans to paint tanks in the rate period?**

5 A. No. The Boston Neck Tank was painted in 2012, and the Howland Wellfield
6 clearwell was painted in 2008. The Tuckertown clearwell will be inspected in
7 2014. Tower Hill Tank, constructed in 2013, will need maintenance but will not
8 require painting.

9

10 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

11 A. Yes.