

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO. 19-146

**DEMAND A COMMITMENT FROM SUEZ NORTH AMERICA TO  
AGGRESSIVELY REPLACE LEAD SERVICE LINES THEY OWN**

WHEREAS, the provision of clean drinking water is one of the most important services that Suez North America provides to its customers in Bergen and Hudson counties; and

WHEREAS, Suez North America's most recent random samplings taken from July 2018 to December 31, 2018 showed dangerous levels of lead in a percentage of homes tested; and

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

WHEREAS, Suez North America has reached a tentative agreement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to replace only seven percent of these lead service lines annually; and

WHEREAS, this lead service line replacement plan tentatively agreed to by Suez North America and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection would take nearly 15 years to complete; and

WHEREAS, the customers of Suez North America in Bergen and Hudson counties deserve a clean safe source of water; and

WHEREAS, a replacement plan that takes more than a decade to address what is a public health crisis is untenable, irresponsible, unsafe and unfair to Suez North America customers in both Bergen and Hudson counties; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington calls on Suez North America to commit to an aggressive replacement program for the removal of all lead service lines the utility owns in not more than a five (5) to seven (7) year period; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington calls on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NJDEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the New Jersey State Legislature and Governor Phil Murphy to hold Suez North America accountable and demand that they commit to an aggressive replacement plan for all lead service lines they own; and

WHEREAS, water quality for all residents of Bergen and Hudson counties must be of paramount importance as a basic human right;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Washington demands that Suez North America and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection take immediate and expedited action to safeguard the drinking water in Bergen and Hudson County homes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NJDEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the New Jersey State Legislature, Governor Phil Murphy and Suez North America.

ATTEST:

  
 Susan Witkowski  
 Township Clerk

APPROVED:

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE  
 TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

BY   
 Michael DeSena  
 Council President

DATED: February 19, 2019

MOTION		SECOND		COUNCIL	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bruno		Bruno		Bruno	X			
Cascio	X	Cascio		Cascio	X			
Cumming		Cumming	X	Cumming	X			
DeSena		DeSena		DeSena	X			
Ullman		Ullman		Ullman	X			