

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 23-W-0111 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of Veolia Water New York, Inc. for Water Service.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARINGS

(Issued April 14, 2023)

Public comment is invited concerning proposed changes in the water delivery rates and practices of Veolia Water New York, Inc. (VWNY or the Company). More specifically, VWNY seeks to consolidate rates for customers in the former SUEZ Water New York, Inc. system (Rockland and Orange Counties), the former SUEZ Owego-Nichols system and the Heritage Hills system, which would comprise the "New York District," and continue progressing towards harmonization of rates in Rate District 1 and Rate District 2 of the former SUEZ Water Westchester system, which would comprise the "Westchester District."<sup>1</sup>

VWNY proposes to increase its delivery revenues by approximately \$18.4 million (14.1%) in the New York District and by \$14.1 million (16.8%) in the Westchester District. The Company maintains that these changes are necessary due to recent increases in various costs outside of its control, and to ensure that it can continue to deliver safe, adequate, and reliable water service. The actual bill impacts of the proposed changes

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<sup>1</sup> Veolia Environment S.A. (Veolia) and SUEZ S.A. (SUEZ) are the corporate parents of the business entities referenced here. In an order dated December 16, 2021, the Public Service Commission (Commission) approved Veolia's acquisition of SUEZ (Case 21-W-0338, Order Adopting Joint Proposal, at 2). Pursuant to the same order, Veolia established a \$4 million regulatory liability to mitigate the instant proposed rate increase (id., at 17-19).

on any particular customer class will vary based on revenue allocation and rate design.

VWNY's pre-filed testimony and exhibits may be reviewed online at the Department of Public Service web page, [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), by searching under Case 23-W-0111.

Under New York State law, the Commission must consider a utility's proposal and may adopt or reject it, in whole or in part, or modify it. In doing so, the Commission will consider input from the participating parties and general public. Administrative Law Judges are presiding over the gathering of public comments and all evidence relating to the proposal. As indicated below, public statement hearings will be held over two days to obtain comments from the public concerning the Company's proposals.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that virtual public statement hearings will be held before Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) Michael Clarke and Ashley Moreno, as follows:

**DATE: May 10, 2023**

**TIME: 1:00 P.M.**

Meeting Number: **2342 078 1207**

Password: **May10-1pm**

Phone Access: 518-549-0500

Access Code: **2342 078 1207**

**TIME: 5:00 P.M.**

Meeting Number: **2343 039 2095**

Password: **May10-5pm**

Phone Access: 518-549-0500

Access Code: **2343 039 2095**

**DATE: May 17, 2023**

**TIME: 1:00 P.M.**

Meeting Number: **2332 323 1025**  
Password: **May17-1pm**

Phone Access: 518-549-0500  
Access Code: **2332 323 1025**

**TIME: 5:00 P.M.**

Meeting Number: **2341 318 0156**  
Password: **May17-5pm**

Phone Access: 518-549-0500  
Access Code: **2341 318 0156**

Those wishing to comment on any aspect of this proceeding at a virtual public statement hearing **must register to do so.**

**To register and provide a statement electronically:**

Participants who would like to provide a statement and will log in to a hearing electronically may register to do so by visiting [www.webex.com](http://www.webex.com) by **4:30 p.m. Monday, May 8, 2023**, for the May 10 hearings, and by **4:30 p.m. Monday, May 15, 2023**, for the May 17 hearings. From the Webex homepage, registrants should click "Join a Meeting" at the top right-hand corner of the screen, enter the appropriate meeting number listed above, click "Register" (it is not necessary to add the webinar password for registration), and provide all requested information.

When logging in to a hearing on the appropriate date and time of the hearing, participants should visit [www.webex.com](http://www.webex.com), click "Join a Meeting" at the top right-hand corner of the screen, and input the appropriate meeting number and password for the hearing. Participants will be asked to "select audio system." It is recommended that participants opt to have the system "call me" or "call using computer." The

"call me" option will require participants to enter their phone numbers.

**To register and provide a statement by phone:**

Any participant who is not able to log in to a hearing electronically may participate by phone. Call-in participants wishing to make a statement at a hearing must register to do so by the deadlines indicated above by calling **1-800-342-3330**, where they should follow prompts to the appropriate hearing and provide the following information: first name and last name, address, and phone number.

On the appropriate day and time of the hearing, participants should dial **(518) 549-0500** and enter the relevant access code listed above to join the hearing.

All participants will be muted upon entry into the hearing. The ALJs will call on each person who has registered to speak. The ALJs will continue the hearing until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements have been made to include their comments in the record. Time limits may be set for each speaker as necessary to afford all attendees an opportunity to be heard. It is recommended that lengthy comments be submitted in writing and summarized for oral presentation. A verbatim transcript of each hearing will be made for inclusion in the record of this case.

**To listen to the hearings:** Registration is not required for any person who wants to listen to a hearing but does not intend to make a statement at that hearing. The hearings will be livestreamed on the internet and available for viewing on the Department of Public Service's YouTube channel on the dates and times listed above. To access the YouTube channel, visit the Department's website, [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), and click on the YouTube icon at the bottom of the homepage. In addition, any person without internet access may listen to the

hearings by phone by calling **(518) 549-0500** and entering the applicable access code.

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should call the Department of Public Service's Human Resources Management Office at (518)474-2520 as soon as possible. Users of Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711. Individuals with difficulty understanding or reading the English language are encouraged to call the Commission at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this notice.

**Other Ways to Comment**

For those who cannot attend or prefer not to speak at a public statement hearing, there are several other ways to provide your comments to the Commission. Comments should refer to "Case 23-W-0111 - Veolia Rates." **Although comments will be accepted throughout the pendency of this proceeding, they are requested by June 19, 2023.**

**Internet or Mail:** Go to [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), click on "File Search" (located under the "Commission Files" heading), enter "23-W-0111" in the "Search by Case Number" field, and then click on "Post Comments" at the top of the page.

Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York, 12223-1350.<sup>2</sup> All written comments will become part of the record considered by the Commission and may be accessed on the Department of Public Service website by searching the case number, as described above, and clicking on the "Public Comments" tab.

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<sup>2</sup> Filing electronically is strongly encouraged.

**Toll-Free Opinion Line:** You may call the Commission's Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is set up to take comments about pending cases from in-state callers 24-hours a day. These calls are not transcribed verbatim, but a summary is provided to the Commission.

(SIGNED)

MICHELLE L. PHILLIPS  
Secretary