

Who is SUEZ?

SUEZ is a recognized global leader in water and wastewater services and technology. Our closest location is right here in West Milford at Bald Eagle Commons. We also serve residents in Hudson, Bergen, Passaic, Sussex, Hunterdon, Ocean and Middlesex counties. In northern New Jersey alone, we provide water to approximately 1 million residents.

Why is SUEZ purchasing the MUA water and wastewater systems in West Milford?

The West Milford Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) provides water and sewer services to approximately 1,700 West Milford homes. Due to the severe deterioration of its infrastructure over time, ever more stringent environmental compliance standards, mounting costs and a small customer base, the MUA is no longer able to continue its operations. After years of research, all parties involved – Mayor Bettina Bieri, the Township Council, MUA commissioners, DEP officials, attorneys, engineers and other professionals – wholeheartedly agree that the sale to SUEZ is imperative at this time. Selling the MUA systems to SUEZ, a company with the necessary expertise and capital to operate these systems, will be beneficial to **all** residents of West Milford and its environment.

Why should I vote yes? How will the MUA sale to SUEZ affect me?

All residents will benefit from the sale of the MUA to SUEZ, but your **“yes”** vote is needed on November 7 to approve the sale.

All residents in West Milford will benefit from the sale of the MUA to SUEZ:

- Because the MUA is a tax-exempt authority it does not pay tax on the properties it owns. If the voters approve the sale, all MUA properties would be transferred to SUEZ and would then be subject to property tax. As a result, the town will benefit by adding “ratables” to its tax base.
- The proceeds of the sale will offset existing municipal debt, thereby reducing annual taxpayer interest costs.
- Due to strict adherence to environmental regulations, SUEZ is committed and obligated to protecting the environment, especially West Milford's lakes and streams.
- The sale of the MUA to SUEZ will avoid the significant risks of additional taxpayer burdens associated with MUA bankruptcy, avoid \$8 million of debt and avoid tremendous municipal costs that would be required for the township to operate the MUA systems.

In addition, MUA customers will benefit from SUEZ' expertise, significant, guaranteed infrastructure improvements, the achievement of stabilized rates and the assurance of safe, reliable drinking water and wastewater services.

Will my rates go up as an existing MUA customer?

- The Town of West Milford has required a plan that will keep rates frozen for the first 3 years. In fact, West Milford MUA customers who receive combined water and wastewater bills will see their rates decrease by 1 percent in year 2 (based on customer use of 60,000 gallons per year).
- Following the 3-year freeze, SUEZ may consider an appropriate and prudent plan to adjust rates that carefully balance the need for critical infrastructure and customer

- rates. Because SUEZ is a regulated utility, any decision on rates must be approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.
- Rates will actually be stabilized and users will experience lower average increases than historical MUA rate increases.
 - SUEZ' existing customers will **not** experience any changes in rate structure specifically as a result of this transaction. Any potential changes will be the result of standard operations, regardless of any MUA sale.

What improvements will be made once SUEZ acquires the MUA?

Following the construction of a comprehensive 5-year infrastructure plan, SUEZ will begin investing \$30 million in repairing and replacing water and wastewater facilities along with their respective distribution and collection systems.

In fact, over the next 20 years, SUEZ has a \$70 million capital improvements plan for the West Milford systems, the costs of which would be shared among nearly 1 million residents served by SUEZ in northern New Jersey; whereas in the past, these costs were borne solely by the 1,700 families located in West Milford.

What is going to change regarding my MUA service?

We expect that a transition to SUEZ should be seamless. And over time, when our infrastructure plan is put in place, your service and water quality will improve.

We also take great pride in the work that we do to help ensure a reliable supply of drinking water and wastewater services that meet or surpass all government standards. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your service, please be sure to contact our customer service team.

Who do I call if I have an issue with my water or wastewater service?

Our customer service representatives would be happy to assist you, and they can be reached at 800-422-5987 during normal business hours. For after-hours emergencies, customers can call 201-487-0011 for assistance. We have staff available 24/7 to address your service needs.

Where is the nearest SUEZ location?

Our nearest office will be located at 179 Cahill Cross Road, Suite 221 in West Milford. Have a question or want to stop by to pay your bill? Our office hours in West Milford will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Vote YES – MUA Sale – November 7th