



September 20, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess  
Secretary to the Commission  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Empire State Plaza  
Agency Building 3  
Albany, New York 12223-1350

Re: Case 16-W-0130 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the Rates, Charges,  
Rules and Regulations of Suez Water New York Inc. for Water Service

Dear Secretary Burgess:

I serve as the President / Chief Executive Officer of the Rockland Business Association, Inc. ("RBA"), and write to you on its behalf.

Known as the "voice of business in Rockland County," the RBA is a not-for-profit membership organization, incorporated in 1967 and headquartered in the Hamlet of Pearl River, Town of Orangetown, Rockland County, New York. The mission of the RBA is "to educate, inform, and provide beneficial services to members and actively represent, promote and support the business community of Rockland County." The RBA has 900+ member businesses, including manufacturing, financial, and service industries, as well as public utilities such Suez Water New York Inc. ("SWNY").

The RBA has taken no official position in this rate proceeding up to this date, and only does so now because of the contents of the Joint Proposal between SWNY and the Staff of the New York State Department of Public Service ("Staff") that was filed on September 2, 2016. While no settlement proposal is perfect, the Joint Proposal represents thoughtful and equitable compromise on the many issues it covers. And also of great importance, the Joint Proposal brings closure to contentious issues and provides tools to facilitate much-needed healing in Rockland County, which I indicated was necessary in my October 5, 2015, filing to you in Case 13-W-0303.

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The RBA firmly believes that the Joint Proposal is in the public interest and presents an important opportunity for all of Rockland County to move forward secure in the knowledge that water supply, infrastructure, customer service, and planning are being responsibly and cost effectively managed during its term. The attached signature page represents the RBA's endorsement of the Joint Proposal. The organization urges its adoption by the New York State Public Service Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al Samuels", is positioned above the printed name.

Al Samuels  
President / Chief Executive Officer  
Rockland Business Association

Attachment

cc: Honorable Michelle Phillips (via e-mail)  
Honorable Ashley Moreno (via e-mail)  
DMM Party List (via e-mail)

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