



Press release

Louvenciennes, 31 March 2017

SMGSEVESC* AND SUEZ INAUGURATE CARBONATE REMOVAL PLANT IN LOUVECIENNES (78)

➤ LESS CALCAREOUS WATER FOR 450,000 CONSUMERS IN YVELINES AND HAUTS-DE-SEINE DEPARTMENTS

The new facility was opened on Friday 31 March 2017 by Erik Linquier, President of the Joint Association for Water Services Management in Versailles and Saint-Cloud (SMGSEVESC) and Jean-Louis Chaussade, CEO of SUEZ. It marks a significant milestone in the plan launched by SMGSEVESC and its delegate company, the SUEZ subsidiary SEOP (West Paris Water Agency), to provide innovation and quality to residents of the region that lies just 15km from Paris.

Following its “zero phyto” commitment to protect the water resource, its developments in digital solutions particularly with its “Aqua 360” system, and its new governance, SMGSEVESC is once again demonstrating the importance of its role in an attractive region, with cutting-edge innovation to provide the exemplary public water services that local residents expect.



An IFOP survey in January 2017, which targeted a representative sample of over 18-year-old residents supplied by the Louvenciennes drinking water plant, showed that limescale was the main cause of dissatisfaction for 85% of tap water consumers. SUEZ is committed to meeting local authority needs and provides customised solutions as part of its service-minded approach. These solutions help local authorities meet the expectations of their residents by providing everyone with both softened water that is more pleasant to use and improves purchasing power – less calcareous water saves every household an average of 150 euros per year.

For the last few weeks, 450,000 consumers in the Yvelines and Hauts-de-Seine departments have been enjoying softened water supplied by the new collective carbonate removal facility at Louvenciennes drinking water production plant.

President of SMGSEVESC Erik Linquier said, *“SMGSEVESC is committed to meeting the needs of consumers and is delighted with its decision to build the collective water softening facility in Louvenciennes. It will improve the daily lives of our public service users and will help all local residents save money.”*

Jean-Louis Chaussade, CEO of SUEZ, added, *“SMGSEVESC provides an exemplary public water service. I am proud that it relies on SUEZ innovations to improve standard of living for local residents and promote the region by providing softened water and efficient, connected networks, whilst working alongside all stakeholders to protect the resource.”*

A process developed by SUEZ

The new facility uses the DENSADEG® process to remove carbonate through settling. By increasing water pH using an alkaline reagent – in this case sodium – limestone that is dissolved in the water materialises and settles. The clear, less calcareous water is then drawn off from the top and filtered.

Louveciennes carbonate removal facility can treat up to 105,000m³ of softened water a day and remove about 50% of excess scale from water. It reduces the water hardness level from 34 to 20 French degrees.

What happens to the limestone that is extracted?

The carbonate removal facility will extract an average of 4,000 tonnes of scale a year in the form of sludge, which will be continuously monitored and analysed by SEOP. Working with local farmers, SMGSEVESC and SEOP have set up a short recovery cycle. Farmers from about fifty municipalities in the Yvelines department will use the limestone conditioner to restore the balance of over-acidic soil and improve the land's mineral quality.

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***Joint Association for Water Services Management in Versailles and Saint-Cloud (SMGSEVESC)**

SMGSEVESC is a regional public body whose mission is to produce, treat and distribute drinking water. It serves 32 municipalities with a total of approximately 510,000 inhabitants. In the municipalities of Garches, Marnes-la-Coquette, Saint-Cloud, Vaucresson, Ville-d'Avray, Bailly, Bois d'Arcy, Buc, Chavenay, Fontenay-le-Fleury, La Celle-Saint-Cloud, La Verrière, Le Chesnay, Rennemoulin, Louveciennes, 4 districts in Elancourt, Noisy-le-Roi, Rocquencourt, Saint-Cyr-l'École, Toussus-le-Noble, Versailles, Guyancourt, Montigny-le-Bretonneux, Trappes, Villepreux, Voisins-le-Bretonneux, the drinking water for 450,000 inhabitants comes from the Louveciennes plant. The other six municipalities are Maurepas, Coignières, Plaisir, les Clayes-sous-Bois, Bougival and Chateaufort. For more information, please go to www.etaso.fr.

SEOP

The West Paris Water Agency (SEOP), a subsidiary of SUEZ, is the company chosen to operate the public drinking water service in the area covered by SMGSEVESC. Employees at SEOP work 24/7, 365 days a year to ensure the public service's operational excellence and satisfy all the region's consumers. SEOP has earned an excellent reputation in the public water service sector thanks to its innovation, organisational skills and quick response times. Its scope includes water softening, partial rechlorination, an operations monitoring centre and leak detection.

SUEZ

We are at the dawn of the resource revolution. In a world facing high demographic growth, runaway urbanisation and the shortage of natural resources, securing, optimising and renewing resources is essential to our future. SUEZ (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) supplies drinking water to 92 million people, delivers wastewater treatment services to 65 million, recovers 16 million tons of waste each year and produces 7 TWh of local and renewable energy. With 82,536 employees, SUEZ, which is present on all five continents, is a key player in the sustainable management of resources. SUEZ generated total revenues of €15.3 billion in 2016.

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