



Paris, 27 June 2018

SOFT WATER FOR ALL:

THE GENNEVILLIERS PENINSULA WATER SYNDICATE AND SUEZ INNOVATE TO SUPPLY SOFTER WATER TO 610,000 INHABITANTS IN THE NORTH OF THE HAUTS-DE-SEINE DEPARTMENT

On Wednesday 27 June, Jean-Luc Leclercq, President of the Gennevilliers Peninsula Water Syndicate (SEPG) and Jean-Louis Chaussade, CEO of SUEZ, inaugurated the Mont-Valérien drinking water softening unit in the Hauts-de-Seine department, near Paris. This facility will supply softer water to the 610,000 inhabitants served by the SEPG¹ from 1 July 2018.

The water in the Paris region is “hard”, or naturally rich in calcium carbonate (limestone). An excess of limestone in water can cause different forms of damage, from scaling in household appliances, to an increased risk of leaks due to corrosion, overconsumption of energy, rapid wear of equipment or dry skin. Users call on a range of solutions to overcome these inconveniences, some of which can be costly (buying particular household products, water softeners or filters, repair or replacement of household appliances or buying bottled water).

SUEZ technology improves the quality of the SEPG's water

When the SEPG renewed its public service contract with SUEZ, its elected members asked the Group to address this issue by deploying the Softazur™ D process, a technology that uses fast physical-chemical settling and the thickening of the calcium carbonate. The process increases the water's pH with an alkaline reagent in order to precipitate the limestone. The recovered limestone is then used on farm land in the nearby Les Yvelines department.

Thanks to this collective water softening unit, the hardness of the water supplied by the plant has been reduced from 25 French degrees to 15 French degrees. An average of 12 kg of limestone will be extracted from the drinking water supplied per household per year.

Economic, social and environmental benefits

This collective water softening unit offers a number of benefits:

- **Average annual savings of €150 per household per year;**
- **Greater equity**, since every customer will benefit from softer water;
- **Greater comfort**, with household appliances that last longer and fewer problems for sensitive skin;

¹ The members of the SPEG include *Asnières-sur-Seine, Bois-Colombes, Colombes, Courbevoie, Gennevilliers, La Garenne-Colombes, Nanterre, Rueil-Malmaison, Suresnes and Villeneuve-la-Garenne*

SUEZ

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- **Increased protection of the environment**, by reducing the consumption of detergents and the production of waste (plastic bottles).

Jean-Luc Leclercq, President of the SEPG: "This development is in line with the SEPG's constant efforts to seize the opportunities offered by new technology in order to provide our users with a more efficient service and water of a higher quality at the right price, while also taking the impacts of human pressure on the environment into consideration."

Jean-Louis Chaussade, CEO of SUEZ: "SUEZ is proud to support the SEPG in the implementation of its ambitious water service policy, in particular with this new collective water softening unit. The Group develops technologies adapted to every community, by providing its expertise in engineering and operations to local authorities and their inhabitants in order to supply water of the highest quality."

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The Gennevilliers Peninsula Water Syndicate

The SEPG oversees the production, supply and distribution of drinking water, and the monitoring of users, under the terms of its public service delegation contract with SUEZ, which was renewed in 2015. The SEPG's Mont-Valérien production plant distributes more than 35 million m³ of drinking water every year to 610,000 inhabitants of the Hauts-de-Seine department in the following localities: Asnières-sur-Seine, Bois-Colombes, Colombes, Courbevoie, Gennevilliers, La Garenne-Colombes, Nanterre, Rueil-Malmaison, Suresnes and Villeneuve-la-Garenne..

SUEZ

With 90,000 people on the five continents, SUEZ is a world leader in smart and sustainable resource management. We provide water and waste management solutions that enable cities and industries to optimize their resource management and strengthen their environmental and economic performances, in line with regulatory standards. To meet increasing demands to overcome resource quality and scarcity challenges, SUEZ is fully engaged in the resource revolution. With the full potential of digital technologies and innovative solutions, the Group recovers 17 million tons of waste a year and produces 3.9 million tons of secondary raw materials and 7 TWh of local renewable energy. It also secures water resources, delivering wastewater treatment services to 58 million people and reusing 882 million m³ of wastewater. SUEZ generated total revenues of 15.9 billion euros in 2017.

See the latest news about the SEPG
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