

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 20-W-0102 - Joint Petition of American Water Works Company, Inc.; New York American Water Company, Inc.; and Liberty Utilities (Eastern Water Holdings) Corp. for Approval, Pursuant to Section 89-h of the New York Public Service Law, of the Acquisition by Liberty Utilities (Eastern Water Holdings) Corp. of 100% of New York American Water Company, Inc. Issued and Outstanding Capital Stock and for Approval, Pursuant to Section 89-f of the New York Public Service Law, of the Issuance of Long-Term Indebtedness.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC FORUMS AND REQUESTING COMMENTS¹

(Issued February 12, 2021)

Public comment is sought by the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS or Department) and the DPS Special Counsel for Ratepayer Protection (Special Counsel), concerning a municipalization feasibility study regarding the New York American Water Company, Inc. (American Water or the Company). Comments will be part of the official record and may be utilized by the Special Counsel as part of the Department's feasibility study provided in the above-referenced proceeding.

American Water provides residential and non-residential metered and other water services as well as public and private fire protection services in parts of Nassau, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster, Washington, and Westchester counties. American Water has approximately 125,000 customers system-wide,

¹ The February 10, 2021 Notice in this proceeding contained an incorrect link. Normally, a correction would be issued. In this case, for clarity, I have directed that the prior Notice be rescinded and replaced with this Notice.

including approximately 124,000 customers in Nassau County, Long Island.

The Department is currently reviewing the sale of New York American Water to Liberty Utilities Co. (Liberty), another private utility. The Liberty proceeding has triggered strong local interest in reviewing options for a potential public takeover of all or part of the system. Several public entities in Nassau County, including the Town of Hempstead, the Village of Sea Cliff, and the Massapequa Water District have submitted comments analyzing the feasibility of taking over parts of the New York American Water system. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has directed the Department to conduct a municipalization feasibility study and report its findings by April 1, 2021, including, among other things, the impact a full or partial public takeover of American Water would have on water safety, rates, property taxes, service delivery, and transparency and accountability. Accordingly, DPS and the Special Counsel seek comments on these and other relevant issues from the public.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a **virtual public forum** will be held as follows before the Special Counsel to receive comments regarding the feasibility of a public takeover of American Water.

1. Northern Nassau County (e.g., Sea Cliff and Mill Neck Estates service areas):

Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm

Electronic Access: www.webex.com

Event number: 179 075 0213

Event password: Feb23-6pm

Phone-Only Access: 518-549-0500
Access Code: 179 075 0213

2. Southeastern Nassau County (e.g., Massapequa service area):

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Time: 6:00 pm

Electronic Access: www.webex.com
Event number: 179 227 5361
Event password: Feb24-6pm

Phone-Only Access: 518-549-0500
Access Code: 179 227 5361

3. Southwestern Nassau County (e.g., all other service areas):

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021
Time: 6:00 pm

Electronic Access: www.webex.com
Event number: 179 560 8800
Event password: Feb25-6pm

Phone-Only Access: 518-549-0500
Access Code: 179 560 8800

At the public forum, those wishing to comment on the American Water public takeover feasibility study will have an opportunity to comment on the record. Commenters may be limited

to three minutes and may be asked follow-up or clarifying questions by the Special Counsel.

Any person wishing to provide a public statement on the record at the forum must pre-register and is asked to do so by 12 p.m., on the day of the forum.

To register electronically: Participants who would like to provide a statement and will login to a forum electronically may register to do so by visiting www.webex.com, where they should click "Join" at the top right-hand corner of the screen, enter the appropriate event number listed above, and provide all requested information.

When logging in on the appropriate date and time of the forum, participants will be asked to "select audio system." It is recommended that participants select the "call me" or "call using computer" option. The "call me" option requires participants to enter their phone numbers.

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

On the appropriate date and time of the forum, all call-in users should dial **518-549-0500** and enter the relevant access code listed above.

All participants will be muted upon entry into the forum. The Special Counsel will call on each person who has requested to provide a statement to speak. Each forum will be held open until everyone who has registered to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements to submit comments into

the record have been made. It is recommended that lengthy comments be submitted in writing and summarized for oral presentation. A verbatim transcript of the public forum will be made for inclusion in the record of this case.

To listen to the hearing: Any person who would like to listen to the forum without making a statement may access the forum without pre-registering. The forums will be livestreamed on the internet and available for viewing on the Department of Public Service YouTube channel on the date and times listed above. To access that YouTube channel, visit the Department's website, www.dps.ny.gov, and click on the YouTube icon at the bottom of the homepage. Any person without internet access may listen to the forums by phone by calling 518-549-0500 and entering the applicable access code.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should call the Department of Public Service's Human Resources Management Office at (518)474-2520 as soon as possible. TDD users may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711. Individuals with difficulty understanding or reading English are encouraged to call the Department 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 forum, there are several other ways to provide your comments. Comments should refer to Case "20-W-0102 New York American Water Public Takeover Feasibility Study" and should be submitted by **Friday, March 5, 2021**.

Via Internet or Mail: Go to www.dps.ny.gov, click on "Search" and enter the case number in the "Search by Case Number" field, and then click on "Post Comments" at the top

right of the page; or send comments by email to the Secretary to the Commission at secretary@dps.ny.gov. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary, New York State Department of Public Service, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350.²

Toll-free Opinion Line: Comments may be submitted by calling the Department of Public Service's Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is designed to take comments about pending matters from in-state callers, 24 hours a day. Callers should press "2" to leave comments, mentioning New York American Water Feasibility Study. These comments are not transcribed verbatim, but a summary is provided to the Commission.

Additional information on this proceeding may be obtained on the Department's website by searching for the above captioned case as described above.

(SIGNED)

MICHELLE L. PHILLIPS
Secretary

² Due to concerns related to COVID-19, filing electronically is strongly encouraged.