

CONNECTICUT WATER SERVICE INC / CT
Form 425
April 20, 2018

Filed by: Connecticut Water Service, Inc.

Pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933

and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14a-12

under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Subject Company: Connecticut Water Service, Inc. (Commission File No.: 0-8084)

This filing relates to the proposed transaction between SJW Group (SJW Group) and Connecticut Water Service, Inc. (CTWS) pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 14, 2018, among SJW Group, Hydro Sub, Inc. and CTWS.

The following is an email and attachment CTWS sent to its employees on the evening of April 19, 2018.

Attached is an important company communication. You will have the opportunity to meet with your local leaders in the office tomorrow on it.

April 19, 2018

Update on Merger with SJW Group

We wanted to advise employees that today the Board of Directors addressed an unsolicited acquisition proposal received from Eversource Energy to acquire Connecticut Water.

In accordance with the terms of our merger agreement with SJW Group, and in consultation with our legal and financial advisors, our Board of Directors:

carefully reviewed the unsolicited acquisition proposal, and

unanimously reaffirmed today its intention to recommend that all Connecticut Water shareholders vote FOR the SJW Group merger.

To be clear, our merger agreement with SJW Group remains in place, and we are moving forward toward completing the transaction, which we continue to expect to occur by year-end 2018.

Importantly, the many benefits we discussed when we announced our merger with SJW Group remain true today **together, Connecticut Water and SJW Group create a new larger, stronger company capable of delivering greater value and benefits for our shareholders, employees, customers and communities than either company could deliver on its own.**

The preliminary proxy and registration statement on Form S-4 in connection with our proposed merger with SJW Group will be filed shortly with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). This filing is an important step in the merger process. Among other things, the filing reviews why the Connecticut Water Board continues to believe our merger with SJW Group is in the best interest of our shareholders and our company.

Today's news is likely to generate increased interest in and speculation about Connecticut Water.

It is important that we not get distracted by it. We are continuing to operate as usual and are counting on all employees to remain focused on our customers, world-class water service, safe operations and day-to-day responsibilities.

Consistent with company policies, **all media and investor related inquiries should be forwarded to Dan Meaney at dmeaney@ctwater.com or 860-664-6016.**

We will continue to keep you updated as we move through the merger process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your supervisor or anyone on the leadership team, as usual.

Thank you as always for your hard work, your service to your customers and your commitment to Connecticut Water.

Forward-Looking Statements

This document contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. Some of these forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as believes, expects, may, will, should, seeks, approximately, intends, plans, estimates, projects, or the negative of those words or other comparable terminology.

The accuracy of such statements is subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions including, but not limited to, the following factors: (1) the risk that the conditions to the closing of the transaction are not satisfied, including the risk that required approvals from the shareholders of the Company or the stockholders of SJW Group for the transaction are not obtained; (2) the risk that the regulatory approvals required for the transaction are not obtained, or that in order to obtain such regulatory approvals, conditions are imposed that adversely affect the anticipated benefits from the proposed transaction or cause the parties to abandon the proposed transaction; (3) the risk that the anticipated tax treatment of the transaction is not obtained; (4) the effect of water, utility, environmental and other governmental policies and regulations; (5) litigation relating to the transaction; (6) uncertainties as to the timing of the consummation of the transaction and the ability of each party to consummate the transaction; (7) risks that the proposed transaction disrupts the current plans and operations of SJW Group or the Company; (8) the ability of SJW Group and the Company to retain and hire key personnel; (9) competitive responses to the proposed transaction; (10) unexpected costs, charges or expenses resulting from the transaction; (11) potential adverse reactions or changes to business relationships resulting from the announcement or completion of the transaction; (12) the combined companies' ability to achieve the growth prospects and synergies expected from the transaction, as well as delays, challenges and expenses associated with integrating the combined companies' existing businesses; and (13) legislative and economic developments. These risks, as well as other risks associated with the proposed transaction, will be more fully discussed in the joint proxy statement/prospectus that will be included in the Registration Statement on Form S-4 that will be filed by SJW Group with the SEC in connection with the proposed transaction.

In addition, actual results are subject to other risks and uncertainties that relate more broadly to the Company's overall business and financial condition, including those more fully described in the Company's filings with the SEC including its annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 and SJW Group's overall business, including those more fully described in SJW Group's filings with the SEC including its annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. Forward looking statements are not guarantees of performance, and speak only as of the date made, and neither the Company or its management nor SJW Group or its management undertakes any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements.

Additional Information and Where to Find It

In connection with the proposed transaction between the Company and SJW Group, SJW Group will file with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form S-4 that will include a joint proxy statement of the Company and SJW Group that also constitutes a prospectus of SJW Group. The Company and SJW Group may also file other documents with the SEC regarding the proposed transaction. This document is not a substitute for the joint proxy statement/prospectus, Form S-4 or any other document which the Company or SJW Group may file with the SEC. INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS OF THE COMPANY AND SJW GROUP ARE URGED TO READ THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT, THE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND ALL OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS THAT ARE FILED OR WILL BE FILED WITH THE SEC, AS WELL AS ANY AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS TO THESE DOCUMENTS, CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN OR WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION AND RELATED MATTERS. Investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the Form S-4 and the joint proxy statement/prospectus (when available) and other documents filed with the SEC by the Company and SJW

Group through the website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov. Copies of documents filed with the SEC by the Company will be made available free of charge on the Company's investor relations website at <https://ir.ctwater.com>. Copies of documents filed with the SEC by SJW Group will be made available free of charge on SJW Group's investor relations website at https://sjwgroup.com/investor_relations.

No Offer or Solicitation

This communication is for informational purposes only and is not intended to and does not constitute an offer to sell, or the solicitation of an offer to subscribe for or buy, or a solicitation of any vote or approval in any jurisdiction, nor shall there be any sale, issuance or transfer of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, sale or solicitation would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. No offer of securities shall be made except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and otherwise in accordance with applicable law.

Participants in the Solicitation

The Company, SJW Group and certain of their respective directors and officers, and other members of management and employees, may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the holders of the Company and SJW Group securities in respect of the proposed transaction. Information regarding the Company's directors and officers is available in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 and its proxy statement for its 2018 annual meeting dated April 6, 2018, which are filed with the SEC. Information regarding the SJW Group's directors and officers is available in SJW Group's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 and its proxy statement for its 2018 annual meeting dated March 6, 2018, which are filed with the SEC. Investors may obtain additional information regarding the interest of such participants by reading the Form S-4 and the joint proxy statement/prospectus (when available) and other documents filed with the SEC by the Company and SJW Group. These documents will be available free of charge from the sources indicated above.