

Agenda Date: 1/19/11 Agenda Item: VIIB

CHCTOMED ACCIOTANCE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center, Suite 801 Newark, NJ 07102 www.nj.gov/bpu/

	COSTOMEN ASSISTANCE
MARTIN ROSENBLUM, Petitioner,) ORDER ADOPTING INITIA) DECISION SETTLEMENT
V.))
ELIZABETHTOWN GAS, Respondent.)) BPU Dkt. No. GC090403131) OAL Dkt. No. PUC08514-10

Martin Rosenblum, Edison, New Jersey, appearing pro se

Deborah M. Franco, Esq., Garden City, New York, and Mary Patricia Keefe, Esq., Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, on behalf of Respondent, Elizabethtown Gas

BY THE BOARD:

On April 14 2009, Martin Rosenblum ("Petitioner") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting a formal hearing related to a billing dispute with Elizabethtown Gas ("Respondent") for utility services rendered by Respondent.

After the filing of Respondent's answer, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for hearing and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. This matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Kimberly A. Moss.

While this matter was pending at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and entered into and signed a Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on November 29, 2010, and submitted to the Board on December 2, 2010, to which the Stipulation was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Moss found that the Stipulation was voluntary, that its terms fully disposed of all issues in controversy and that it satisfied the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1. Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, and in order to resolve this matter without the need for future litigation and without agreeing to the merits of the allegations expressed in the petition, Respondent agreed to reduce the disputed amount by approximately fifty (50) percent resulting in an outstanding balance of \$1,250.00. In return, Petitioner has agreed to pay said balance under a two-year deferred payment agreement.

After review of the record and the Stipulation of Settlement of the parties, the Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> that the parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures and that by the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement, have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter.

Accordingly, the Board <u>HEREBY ADOPTS</u> the Initial Decision and the Stipulation of Settlement executed by the parties in their entirety as if fully set forth herein.

DATED: 1/19/11

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

LEE A. SOLOMON PRESIDENT

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

JEANNE M. FOX COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilities

MARTIN ROSENBLUM

V.

ELIZABETHTOWN GAS

BPU DOCKET NO. GC09040313U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC8514-10

SERVICE LIST

Martin Rosenblum Edison, New Jersey 08820

Deborah M. Franco, Esq. Cullen & Dykman Garden City Center 100 Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard Garden City, New York 11530-4850

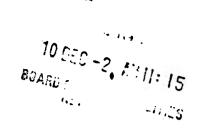
Mary Patricia Keefe, Esq. Elizabethtown Gas 300 Connell Drive – Suite 3000 Berkeley Heights, New Jersey 07922

Eric Hartsfield, Director Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, New Jersey 07102

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INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 08514-10

AGENCY DKT. NO. GC09040313U

MARTIN ROSENBLUM,

Petitioner.

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ELIZABETHTOWN GAS,

Respondent.

Martin Rosenblum, petitioner, pro se

Deborah Franco, Esq. and Mary Patricia Keefe, Vice President and Assistant Corporate Secretary on behalf of respondent (Elizabethtown Gas)

Record Closed: November 29, 2010 Decided: November 29, 2010

BEFORE KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ:

On August 13, 2010, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for hearing as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to-15 and N.J.S.A. 52:14F 1 to-13. A telephone prehearing was scheduled for October 7, 2010. Prior to the prehearing the parties resolved the matter and requested an adjournment. On November 29, 2010 the parties submitted the fully executed Stipulation of Settlement indicating the terms of the agreement, which are incorporated herein by reference.

have reviewed the record and terms of the Stipulation of Settlement and FIND:

- 1 The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by the signatures of the parties or their representatives.
- 2. The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with law.

I CONCLUDE that the agreement meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1 and therefore, it is ORDERED that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings be and are hereby concluded.

hereby FILE my initial decision with the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five (45) days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

11/29/10	- 1/1/21
DATE	KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ
Date Received at Agency:	12-2-2010
Date Mailed to Parties	
IJD	

STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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	x	
Martin Rosenblum	x	
	x	BPU Docket No. GC09040313U
v.	x	OAL Docket No. PUC 08514-10
	x	
Elizabethtown Gas	x	
	x	

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

To the Honorable Board of Public Utilities:

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2009, Martin Rosenblum ("Petitioner") filed a petition ("Petition") to dispute a \$2,619.19 charge (the "Disputed Amount") for natural gas provided to Petitioner by Pivotal Utility Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Elizabethtown Gas ("Elizabethtown" or the "Company") at 31 Huntington Road, Edison, New Jersey 08820 during the period 2006 through June 2008;

WHEREAS, the Petition arises out of a high bill complaint made by Petitioner on the basis that the bill rendered by Elizabethtown to Petitioner did not reflect his actual usage due to a meter error; and

WHEREAS, while this matter was pending at the Board, the parties engaged in negotiations and entered into this Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation"); and

WHEREAS, in the interests of resolving this matter without further delay, effort and cost, the parties hereto agree to settle this matter;

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- In the interest of resolving this matter without the need for future litigation and without agreeing with the merits of the allegations expressed in the Petition, Elizabethtown agrees to reduce the Disputed Amount by approximately 50% resulting in an outstanding balance of \$1,250.00, which can be paid by Petitioner under a two-year deferred payment arrangement.
- 2. This Stipulation provides for a final resolution of this proceeding.
- 3. The undersigned agree that this Stipulation contains mutually balancing and interdependent provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved

in its entirety. In the event any particular aspect of this Stipulation is not accepted and approved by the Board or modified by the Board, the party that is adversely affected by the modification can either accept the modification or declare this Stipulation to be null and void, and the parties shall be placed in the same position that they were in immediately prior to its execution.

PIVOTAL UTILITY HOLDINGS, INC. D/B/A ELIZABETHTOWN GAS

By: Mary Patricia Keefe

Mary Patricia Keefe

Vice President and Assistant

Corporate Secretary

Dated: November 18, 2010

Martin Rosenblum

Dated: November __, 2010