

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

CHSTOMED ASSISTANCE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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

		OOO TOMEN ASSISTANCE
ELLA HARGROVE, Petitioner)	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT
V PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY, Respondent.))))	BPU Dkt. No. EC10070476U
	ý	OAL Dkt. No. PUC09426-10

Ella Hargrove, Montclair, New Jersey, appearing pro se

Alexander C. Stern, Esq., Newark, New Jersey, on behalf of Respondent, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:

On July 6, 2010, Ella Hargrove ("Petitioner") filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting a formal hearing related to a billing dispute with Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("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 December 14, 2010, and submitted to the Board on December 16, 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 credit \$10,803.17 to Petitioner's account. In return, Petitioner has agreed to continue to timely pay her bills for electric and gas service rendered by Respondent.

After review of the record and the Stipulation of Settlement of the parties, the Board HEREBY FINDS 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

COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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

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ELLA HARGROVE

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. EC10070476U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC09426-10

SERVICE LIST

Ella Hargrove Montclair, New Jersey 07042

Alexander C. Stern, Esq.
PSEG Services Corporation
80 Park Plaza – T5G
Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194

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

Kerri Kirschbaum, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101



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INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 09426-10

AGENCY DKT. NO. EC10070476U

ELLA HARGROVE

Petitioner,

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY.

Respondent.

Ella Hargrove, petitioner, pro se

Alexander Stern, Esq. on behalf of respondent (PSE&G Services Corporation)

Record Closed: December 14, 2010 Decided: December 14, 2010

BEFORE KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ:

On August 26, 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 8, 2010. A hearing was scheduled and conducted on November 30, 2010. On December 14, 2010 the OAL received a 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.

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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.

12/14/10	·	
DATE		KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ
Date Received at Agency:		12-16-10
Date Mailed to Parties	DEC 9 6 2010	Leura Pardies
ljb		DIRECTOR AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

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Petitioner,)					
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v.)					
		STIPU	JLATION O	F SETTLE	MEN	T
Public Service Electric & Gas Company)					
Respondent.)					

On or about August 2, 2010, Petitioner filed the above-referenced billing dispute. Public Service Electric & Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Respondent") filed an answer to the petition and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBPU" or "Board") transmitted the matter to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") as a contested case for adjudication.

In the interests of resolving this matter amicably and to avoid further delay and costs to the party's, the parties hereto agreed to settle this matter in accordance with the following terms:

- 1. Although not agreeing with the merits of the allegations expressed in the Petition, in the interests of good customer relations PSE&G agrees to credit \$10,803.17 to Petitioner's account at 57 Mission St, 1st Fl; Montclair, New Jersey.
- 2. Petitioner agrees to continue to timely pay her PSE&G bills for electric and gas service.
- 3. This agreement is in full settlement of the Petition filed by Petitioner on or about August 2, 2010.
- 4. The undersigned agree that this Settlement 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 Settlement 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 Settlement to be null and void, and the parties shall be placed in the same position that they were in immediately prior to its execution.

PSEG SERVICES CORPORATION Attorneys for PSE&G

DATED: 12 /8 /10

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By: Alexander C. Stern, Esq.

Assistant General Regulatory Counsel

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS CO.

DATED: 12/8/10

Edward B. Sullivan

Manager of Customer Operations

DATED: 12/6/10

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