

Agenda Date:10/13/11 Agenda Item: VIID

STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 <u>www.nj.gov/bpu/</u>

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT

V

NATALIA SANCHEZ,

Petitioner

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY, Respondent BPU Docket No. EC10110837U OAL Docket No. PUC00549-11

Parties of Record: **Natalia Sanchez,** Petitioner, *pro se* **Sheree L. Kelly, Esq.**, on behalf of Respondent, PSEG Services Corporation

BY THE BOARD:

On November 12, 2010, Natalia Sanchez ("Petitioner") filed a petition with the 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 submission of Respondent's answer received on December 20, 2010, the Board transmitted this matter on January 5, 2011 to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for hearing as a contested case pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:14B-1 <u>et seq.</u> and <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:14F-1 <u>et seq.</u> 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 a signed Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") dated September 12, 2011 that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on September 13, 2011and received by the Board on September 21, 2011, 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, the parties have agreed that the outstanding balance due on the account is \$21,249.61. Respondent has agreed to credit the amount of \$9,749.61 leaving a new outstanding balance due of \$11,500.00. In return, Petitioner has agreed to pay the remaining balance due for an 18 month term of payments of \$640.00 per month for the first 17 months and a final payment of \$620.00 on month 18. The parties have agreed that these payments will be supplemental to current bills beginning in August. 2011. Respondent has also agreed to

waive late payment charges during the 18-month payment plan and will install a gas remote reading device at the property at no cost to Petitioner.

After review of the record and the Stipulation of Settlement of the parties, the Board <u>HEREBY</u> <u>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, they have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter.

This Order shall become effective upon service of the Order upon all parties of record unless a later date is indicated in the Order, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-40.

Accordingly, the Board <u>HEREBY ORDERS</u> that the Initial Decision and Stipulation executed by the parties <u>BE ADOPTED</u> and <u>APPROVED</u> in its entirety, as if fully set forth herein.

DATED: 10/13/11

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

LEE A. SOLOMON

PRESIDENT

NE M. FOX OMMISSIONER

JØSEPH L. FIORDALISO ØOMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA 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

NATALIA SANCHEZ

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. EC10110837U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC00549-11

SERVICE LIST

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Natalia Sanchez 2902 Jeannette Street, Unit 2B Union City, New Jersey 07087

Sheree L. Kelly, 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 44 S. Clinton Avenue – P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625

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

CM9 Beslow DACI Lee-Ihomos Sambert Ford-Williams



BPU MAILROOM SEP 2 1 2011

State of New Jersey OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

RECEIVED

INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT OAL DKT. NO. PUC 00549-11 AGENCY DKT. NO. EC10110837U

NATALIA SANCHEZ, Petitioner. V. PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY,

Respondent.

Natalia Sanchez, petitioner appearing pro se

Sheree L. Kelly, Esq. on behalf of respondent (PSE&G Services Corporation)

Record Closed: September 13, 2011 Decided: September 13, 2011

BEFORE KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ:

On January 7, 2011, 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 and conducted on February 8, 2011. A follow up status conference was scheduled and conducted on March 3, 2011 during which time a hearing was scheduled for April 4, 2011. The April 4, 2011 hearing date was adjourned at the request of PSE&G. The matter was rescheduled to July 25, 2011. During the pendency of the hearing the parties reached a settlement agreement. On or about August 24, 2011 OAL inquired about the signed Stipulation of Settlement. On OAL DKT. NO. PUC 00549-11

August 29, 2011 the undersigned scheduled a hearing for September 12, 2011. On said date, petitioner failed to appear but agreed to forward over a copy of the signed Stipulation of Settlement, which is 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 <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 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.

I 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 <u>N.J.S.A</u>. 52:14B-10.

SEP 1 6 2011

eptember 13,2011

DATE

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties: ljb

KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

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Natalia Sanchez Petitioner

v.

Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Respondent OAL Docket No. PUC 00549-2011N BPU Docket No. EC10110837U

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

This matter having been brought before the Office of Administrative Law by the Petitioner, Natalia Sanchez ("Petitioner"), against Respondent Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Respondent") for utility service rendered by PSE&G to the premises 99 Broadway, Newark, NJ, 07104 (the "Property") and the Parties having agreed to settle this matter, hereby set forth the terms and conditions of their settlement agreement as follows:

- 1. As of July 19, 2011, Petitioner had a balance of \$21,249.61 on account no. 67 03.
- 2. Respondent agrees to credit Petitioner's account for \$9,749.61 leaving a balance of \$11,500.00.
- 3. Petitioner will pay \$640.00 per month for 17 months and a final payment of \$620.00 in the 18th month plus current bill starting with the August 2011 bill.
- 4. Respondent agrees to waive late payment charges during the 18 month payment plan.
- 5. Respondent will install a gas remote reading device at the property at no cost to the Petitioner.

Petitioner: Natalia Sanchez

By: _____

Respondent: PSE&G

By:

Edward B. Sullivan Manager – Customer Operations

Date:

Date:_____

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Natal	a Sanchez Petitioner	
v.		
Public	Service Electric and Gas Company, Respondent	[[[

OAL Docket No. PUC 00549-2011N BPU Docket No. EC10110837U

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

This matter having been bi bught before the Office of Administrative Law by the Petitio ier, Natalia Sanchez ("Petit oner"), against Respondent Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Respondent") for utility service rendered by PSE&G to the premises 99 Brc adway, Newark, NJ, 07104 [the "Property") and the Parties having agreed to settle this matter hereby set forth the terms : ad conditions of their settlement agreement as follows:

As of July 19, 201 Petitioner had a balance of \$21,249.61 on account no. 67

- 2. Respondent agrees () credit Petitioner's account for \$9,749.61 leaving a balance of \$11,500.00.
- 3. Petitioner will pay 540.00 per month for 17 months and a final payment of \$620.00 in the 18th: nonth plus current bill starting with the August 2011 bill.
- 4. Respondent agrees is waive late payment charges during the 18 month payment plan.

Respondent will ins all a gas remote reading device at the property at no cost to the Petitioner.

Vatalia Sanch Petition er: N 1-7-Date:

Respondent: PSE&G

By: _

Edward B. Sullivan Manager – Customer Operations

Date: