

Agenda Date: 8/24/16 Agenda Item: VIIB

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314 Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 <u>www.nj.gov/bpu/</u>

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

DEBORAH BUCCI Petitioner

**v**.

) PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY ) Respondent ) ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT

BPU Docket No. EC16020120U OAL Docket No. PUC 06268-2016S

Parties of Record:

**Deborah Bucci,** Petitioner **Samuel A. Wolfe, Esq.,** for Respondent, Public Service Electric & Gas, Company

BY THE BOARD:

On February 12, 2016, Deborah Bucci ("Petitioner") filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") related to a billing dispute with Public Service Electric & Gas ("PSE&G" or "Respondent") for electric services rendered by Respondent to the Petitioner.

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 <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") Edward J. Delanoy, Jr.

The parties subsequently voluntarily agreed to resolve the matter and entered into a signed Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on July 14, 2016, and submitted to the Board on July 14, 2016, to which the Stipulation was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Delanoy found that the Stipulation was voluntary, that its terms fully disposed of all issues in controversy and that it satisfied the requirements of <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 1:1-19.1.

Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation and in order to fully resolve this matter, PSE&G agreed to credit \$281.09 to Petitioner's account in the interest of good customer relations. Petitioner has agreed to pay her remaining unpaid balance in 12 monthly payments of \$150.00, commencing on August 1, 2016, and then on or before the first day of each of the eleven months thereafter, until the remaining unpaid balance has been fully paid. In addition, Petitioner agrees to timely pay her monthly PSE&G charges.

After review of the Initial Decision and the Stipulation, 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, they have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter. Accordingly, the Board HEREBY ADOPTS the Initial Decision and the Stipulation executed by the parties in their entirety as if fully set forth herein.

The effective date of this Order is September 3, 2016.

DATED: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY: **RICHARD S. MROZ** PRESIDENT JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO DEN COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER UPENDRA J. CHIVUKUL DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER ATTEST: IRENE KIM ÁSBUL SECRETARY I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

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#### IN THE MATTER OF DEBORAH BUCCI, PETITIONER V. PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY, RESPONDENT – BILLING DISPUTE

#### BPU DOCKET NO. EC16020120U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 06268-2016S

#### SERVICE LIST

Deborah Bucci 246 Rutland Avenue Mt. Holly, New Jersey 08060

Samuel A. Wolfe, Esq. Public Service Electric and Gas Company 80 Park Plaza – T5G Newark, New Jersey 07102 Samuel.Wolfe@pseg.com

Eric Hartsfield, Director Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314 Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 <u>Eric.hartsfield@bpu.nj.gov</u>

Julie Ford-Williams, Chief Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314 Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 Julie.ford@bpu.nj.gov

Emma Yao Xiao, Esq. Deputy Attorney General Department of Law & Public Safety Division of Law 124 Halsey Street Post Office Box 45029 Newark, NJ 07101-45029 Emma.Xiao@dol.lps.state.nj.us

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State of New Jersey OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

> INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 6268-16 AGENCY DKT. NO. EC [6020]2011

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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MAIL ROOM

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DEBORAH BUCCI,

Petitioner,

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#### PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS

COMPANY,

Respondent.

Deborah Bucci, petitioner, pro se

Samuel A. Wolfe, Esq., for respondent

Record Closed: July 13, 2016

Decided: July 14, 2016

CMS V. Hayne D. Lee Thom E. Hartsfield J. Ford C. Jordan R. Lambert B. Agee J. Gertsman C. Vachier

BEFORE EDWARD J. DELANOY, JR., ALJ:

Petitioner, Deborah Bucci, disputes charges on her electric bill and alleges she had canceled her electric service for the premises located at 2916 Penn Street, Pennsauken Township, New Jersey. The matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on April 26, 2016, and a telephone prehearing conference was scheduled for June 16, 2016. During the conference call, the parties resolved the matter and the record was held open for receipt of an executed settlement agreement.

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OAL DKT. NO. PUC 6268-16

On July 13, 2016, an executed settlement agreement was filed in the OAL and is attached and fully incorporated herein.

I have reviewed the record and the terms of settlement and I FIND:

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

I CONCLUDE that this agreement meets the requirements of <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 1:1-19.1 and that the settlement should be approved. I approve the settlement and therefore **ORDER** that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings be concluded.

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

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 6268-16

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 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.

<u>July 14, 2016</u> DATE EDWARD J. DELANOY, JR., ALJ

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties:

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# STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

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Deborah Bucci,	)
Petitioner	)
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Public Service Electric and	)
Gas Company,	)
Respondent	)
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BPU Docket No. EC16020120U OAL Docket No. PUC 06268-2016 S

#### STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

This matter having been brought before the Office of Administrative Law by the Petitioner, Deborah Bucci ("Petitioner"), against Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G"), for utility service rendered by PSE&G to the premises at 2916 Penn Street, Pennsauken, New Jersey, and the Parties having agreed to settle this matter, hereby set forth the terms and conditions of their settlement agreement as follows:

In the interests of resolving this matter amicably, and to avoid further delay and costs to the parties, the parties hereto have 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, PSE&G agrees to credit \$281.09 to Petitioner's Account No. 7210

2. Petitioner agrees to timely pay her monthly PSE&G charges.

3. Petitioner shall also pay her remaining unpaid balance, in twelve monthly installments of \$150.00 each. Petitioner shall pay the first such installment by August 1, 2016, and shall pay \$150.00 per month on or before the first day of each of the eleven months thereafter, until the remaining unpaid balance has been fully paid.

4. If Petitioner fails to make the payments as described in Section 3 above and/or fails to make payment associated with the current electric service, Petitioner understands that PSE&G would be entitled to all amounts due and owing at that time;

that PSE&G may require Petitioner to pay a security deposit; and that PSE&G may exercise its authority to discontinue Petitioner's, service in accordance with PSE&G's tariff and the provisions of N.J.A.C 14:3-3A.1.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

By:

Deborah Bucci

Date:

James T. Walsh Sr. Customer Relations Consultant

7,2016 Date: JU/