

Agenda Date: 11/9/11 Agenda Item: VIIA

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 S. Clinton Avenue – P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625

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**CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE** 

ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT

BPU Docket No.GC11040249U OAL Docket No. PUC07738-11

MOST WORSHIPFUL ORIENTAL GRAND LODGE AF&M, FULTON NEWARK, INC., Petitioner

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRC AND GAS COMPANY, Respondent

Maury R. Winkler, Esq., on behalf of Petitioner, Most Worshipful Oriental Grand Lodge AF&M, Fulton Newark, Inc.

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

#### BY THE BOARD:

On April 29, 2011, Most Worshipful Oriental Grand Lodge AF&M, Fulton Newark, Inc. ("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 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 October 5, 2011, and submitted to the Board on October 12, 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, and in order to fully resolve this matter, Respondent has agreed to credit \$30,224.16 to Respondent's account

for electric and gas service to bring the outstanding overdue balance owed on the account to \$38,000.00 as of October 5, 2011. In addition to making timely monthly utility payments to Respondent, Petitioner has further agreed to satisfy the outstanding overdue balance of \$38.000.00 by submitting supplemental monthly payments to the Respondent in the amount of \$9,500.00 per month for four months. The parties also agreed that should Petitioner fail to keep the agreement, the Respondent may exercise its authority in accordance with its tariff and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.1 et seq.

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 HEREBY ADOPTS the Initial Decision and the Stipulation of Settlement executed by the parties in their entirety as if fully set forth herein.

DATED:

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** BY:

LEE A. SOLOMON **PRESIDENT** 

MMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

**SECRETARY** 

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

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

## MOST WORSHIPFUL ORIENTAL GRAND LODGE AF&M, FULTON NEWARK, INC.

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#### PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. GC11040249U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC07738-11

#### **SERVICE LIST**

Maury R. Winkler, Esq. 60 Park Place, Suite 1104 Newark, New Jersey 07102

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 44 So. Clinton Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

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

CMS Beslow DAG(2) RPA Lee-Ihomos Hombur Ford-Williams



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INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 07738-11

AGENCY DKT. NO. GC11040249U

MOST WORSHIPFUL ORIENTAL GRAND LODGE AF&F, FULTON NEWARK, INC,

Petitioner,

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY,

Respondent.

Maury R. Winkler, Esq. appearing on behalf of petitioner

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

Record Closed: October 5, 2011 Decided: October 5, 2011

## BEFORE KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ:

On June 30, 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 July 26, 2011. A hearing was scheduled for October 6, 2011. Prior to the hearing date the parties resolved all issues in dispute. The parties prepared and submitted a Stipulation of Settlement to the OAL on October 5, 2011, which is incorporated herein by reference.

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

- 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.

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 N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

10/5/11	Miller
DATE	KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ
Date Received at Agency:	
Date Mailed to Parties:	
ljb	

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Most Worshipful Oriental Grand Lodge AF&M Fulton Newark, Inc.	) ) BPU DOCKET NO. GC11040249U
Petitioner,	OAL DOCKET NO. 07738-2011N
v.  Public Service Electric & Gas Company	STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT
Respondent.	) ) )

On or about May 11, 2011 Petitioner filed the above-referenced billing dispute. Public Service Electric & Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Respondent") filed an answer to Petitioner's 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 without further delay, extensive effort and cost, the parties hereto agreed to settle this matter in accordance with the following terms:

- 1. PSE&G agrees to credit \$30,224.16 to Petitioner's account for electric and gas service to bring the outstanding overdue balance owed on the account to \$38,000.00 as of October 5, 2011.
- 2. Petitioner agrees that in addition to timely paying monthly PSE&G utility bills, commencing with Petitioner's November 2011 PSE&G utility bill, to satisfy the \$38,000.00 outstanding overdue balance due, it shall commence submitting supplemental monthly payments to PSE&G of \$9,500.00 per month for four (4) months.
- 3. If Petitioner fails to keep the agreement as set forth in the arrangement established in paragraph 2 above, it is understood by Petitioner that PSE&G may exercise its authority in accordance with its tariff and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.1 et seq.
- 4. This agreement is in settlement of the Petition filed by Petitioner on or about May 11, 2011.
- 5. 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.

DATED: 10/5/	PSEG SERVICES CORPORATION Attorneys for PSE&G  By: Alexander C. Stern, Esq. Assistant General Regulatory Counsel  PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS CO.  By: Cultural Glub  Patricia Esler Manager of Customer Assessment
	MAURY R. WINKLER, ESQ. ATTORNEY AT LAW
DATED:	By:

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: By: Alexander C. Stern, Esq.

Assistant General Regulatory Counsel

MAURY R. WINKLER, ESQ. ATTORNEY AT LAW

DATED: 10/25/11

Maury R. Winkler, Esq. Attorney for Petitioner

DATED 10/05/11

Authorized Signatory

Most Worshipful Oriental Grand Lodge

AF&M Fulton Newark, Inc.