

Agenda Date: 1/18/12 Agenda Item: VIIF

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

Elizabeth L. Polster Petitioner

ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY Respondent

BPU DKT. NO. EC11030113U OAL DKT. NO. PUC8820-11

Parties of Record

Gregory Gogo, Esq., on behalf of Petitioner, Elizabeth L. Polster Sheree L. Kelly, Esq., on behalf of Respondent, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:

On March 3, 2011, Elizabeth L. Polster ("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") Edward J. Delanoy, Jr.

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 17, 2011, and submitted to the Board on November 29, 2011, 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 N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1. Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, and in order to fully resolve this matter, the parties have agreed that from the period of June 30, 2008 through September 21, 2011, Petitioner's indebtedness on her accounts with Respondent is \$11,682.85. Respondent has agreed to credit the account in the amount of \$7,182.85, leaving an outstanding balance due for this period of \$4,500.00. Petitioner has agreed to pay this outstanding balance over a period of eighty (80) months beginning on December 1, 2011 and ending about July 1, 2018, in the amount of \$56.25 per month in addition to the monthly payments due to Respondent for services provided.

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: 1/18/12

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

PRESIDENT

NNE M. FOX OMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

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

Utilities

ELIZABETH L. POLSTER

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. EC11030113U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC8820-11

SERVICE LIST

Gregory Gogo, Esq. 1542 Kuser Road, Suite B-1 Mercerville, New Jersey 08619

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 Two Gateway Center – Suite 801 Newark, New Jersey 07102

Veronica Beke, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101 ZOII HOY 30 AMII: 37
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State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

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INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 8820-11 AGENCY DKT. NO. EC11030113U

ELIZABETH L. POLSTER,

Petitioner.

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ENERGY & GAS COMPANY,

Respondent.

Gregory Gogo, Esq., for petitioner

Sheree L. Kelly, Esq., for respondent

Record Closed: November 9, 2011

Decided: November 17, 2011

BEFORE EDWARD J. DELANOY, JR., ALJ:

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on July 28, 2011, for determination 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.

The parties have agreed to a settlement and have prepared a Stipulation of Settlement indicating the terms thereof, which is attached and fully incorporated herein.

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

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 N.J.A.C. 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.

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

November 17, 2011 DATE	EDWARD J. DELANOY, JR., ALJ
Date Received at Agency:	
Date Mailed to Parties:	J & 2 2 201

GREGORY GOGO 1542 Kuser Road, Suite B-Mercerville, NJ 08619 609-585-5151 Attorney for Petitioner

Petitioner,

Elizabeth L. Polster

V.

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OAL Docket No. PUC 08820-2011-S

AGENCY REFERENCE NO. EC11030113U

STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Public Service Electric and Gas Company) STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT Respondent.
WHEREAS, Elizabeth L. Polster, as Petitioner, has opened this matter with the Board of
Public Utilities, and the same having been transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law as a
contested case;
THEREAFTER, the Parties hereto having engaged in discovery and having amicably
resolved their differences:
NOW THEREFORE, on this 28th day of October, 2011, the Parties enter into the
following Stipulation of Settlement.
1. The indebtedness of Petitioner Elizabeth L. Polster as to Legacee Account No.
and Contract Account No. (attached hereto) for the period from

June 30, 2008 through to and including the period of September 21, 2011, showing an account balance of \$11,682.85, is hereby reduced, pursuant to a credit of \$7,182.85 so that the remaining balance due and owing for this period is \$4,500.00.

- 2. PSE&G Company hereby grants and Petitioner agrees to make payments of the balance due of \$4,500.00 over eighty (80) months, beginning December 1, 2011 and thereafter ending about July 1, 2018, said payments to be in the amount of \$56.25 per month which shall be received by PSE&G along with Petitioner's regular monthly payment, but by separate check.
- 3. The Parties hereto represent that each has had the benefit of the advice of counsel and each has entered into this Stipulation of Settlement freely, voluntarily, and of her or its own accord.

Edward Sullivan, Authorized Agent

Public Service Electric & Gas Company

Elizabeth L. Polster

Petitioner