

Agenda Date: 7/23/14 Agenda Item: VIIA

CLISTOMER ASSISTANCE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

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		COOTOMEN ADDIOTANCE
GARY D. WARTENBERG,)	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL
Petitioner)	DECISION SETTLEMENT
)	
V.)	
)	
UNITED WATER OF NEW JERSEY, INC.)	BPU DOCKET NO. WC13111116U
Respondent)	OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 00960-14

Parties of Record:

Gary D. Wartenberg, appearing <u>pro</u> <u>se</u>

John P. Wallace, Esq., appearing on behalf of Respondent, United Water of New Jersey, Inc.

BY THE BOARD:

On November 21, 2013, Gary D. Wartenberg ("Petitioner"), filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting a formal hearing related to a billing dispute with United Water of New Jersey ("Respondent") for water utility services rendered by Respondent.

After the filing of Respondent's answer, on January 16, 2014, 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 June 6, 2014 and submitted to the Board on June 9, 2014, 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 Stipulation, the parties have entered into an agreement and, in the interest of resolving on all outstanding issues in this matter without further delay, extensive effort and costs, the Respondent shall credit the account number ending in 2222 in the sum of \$448.64, leaving a remaining arrearage balance of \$548.74. Petitioner has agreed to pay the remaining balance on or before July 1, 2014. On July 1, 2014, staff was advised that Petitioner made the required payment and Respondent issued the credit.

After review of the Initial Decision and the Stipulation of Settlement of the parties, the Board HEREBY FINDS that the parties have voluntarily agreed to the Stipulation 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 Stipulation of Settlement executed by the parties in their entirety as if set forth at length herein.

DATED: 7/23/14

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

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GARY D. WARTENBERG, Petitioner

V.

UNITED WATER OF NEW JERSEY, INC. Respondent BPU DOCKET NO. WC13111116U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 00960-14

SERVICE LIST

Gary D. Wartenberg 123 Francisco Avenue Montclair, NJ 07043

John P. Wallace, Esq. 171 East Ridgewood Avenue Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Christopher Psihoules, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street Post Office Box 45029 Newark, NJ 07101-45029 Eric Hartsfield, Director Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Julie Ford-Williams, Chief Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350



OFFICE OF

CASE MANAGEMENT
FORWARDING

State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

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INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAI, DKT, NO, PUC (10960-14N AGENCY DKT, NO, WC13111116U

GARY D. WARTENBERG,

Petitioner.

V.

UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY,

Respondent.

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CASE MARKAGEMENT

Gary D. Wartenberg, petitioner, pro se

John P. Wallace, Esq on behalf of respondent (United Water New Jers ay)

Record Closed: June 6, 2014

Decided: June 6, 201-1

BEFORE KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ:

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 conducted on February 28, 2014 during which time a hearing was scheduled for May 16, 2014. A status conference was conducted on March 28, 2014 wherein the parties reached a tentative settlement. On the date of the hearing the parties resolved all issues in dispute and the agreement was placed on the record. On June 6, 2014 respondent's counsel submitted a Stipulation of Settlement, which is attached hereto for reference.

I 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.

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.

6-6-14		
DATE	KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ	
Date Received at Agency:		
Date Mailed to Parties:		

JOHN P. WALLACE

171 East Ridgewood Avenue Ridgewood, NJ 07450 (201) 445-3533 Attorney for Respondent

----x STATE OF NEW JERSEY

GARY D. WARTENBERG

VS.

UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY,

Respondent. ;

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Petitioner, : OAL DOCKET NO.: PUC 00960-14 : AGENCY DOCKET NO: WC13111116U

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

The parties to this matter having reached a settlement with respect to the above matter, which relates to water service charges of \$997.38 demanded by Respondent for Account # 2222 located at 123 Franscisco Avenue, Rutherford, New Jersey,

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. Respondent, United Water New Jersey, will give a credit to Petitioner in the amount of \$448.64 for Account #0086912222 with respect to unpaid water charges of \$997.38.
- Petitioner agrees to pay the balance owed on said account amounting to \$548.74 on or before July 1, 2014, in addition to current water charges when due. Respondent will apply the agreed upon credit of \$448.64 to Petitioner's said account after the reduced unpaid water charges payments in the

amount of \$548.74 have been paid in full.

3. Petitioner agrees that the petition in the above matter be and same is hereby withdrawn.

Dated: May , 2014

GARY Ø. WARTENBERG

Petitioner

JOHN P. WALLACE, ESQ. Actorney for Respondent