

Agenda Date: 5/28/19 Agenda Item: VIIA

# 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>

Robert Grewe, Petitioner,

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Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Respondent. CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

BPU DOCKET NO. EC18111223U

OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 01197-19

ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION

Parties of Record:

Robert Grewe, petitioner, pro se Justin Incardone, Esq., for respondent

BY THE BOARD:

#### PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Robert Grewe ("Petitioner"), filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") on November 2, 2018 ("Petition") disputing charges associated with service provided by Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G"). This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") on January 18, 2019, for determination as a contested case.

In the Petition, Petitioner alleged PSE&G incorrectly billed Petitioner's account.

PSE&G, in its answer dated December 7, 2018, denied the allegation that Petitioner was incorrectly billed, PSE&G contended that services were supplied and billed in accordance with terms and conditions and rate schedules set forth in its Board approved Tariff. The Company requested that the relief sought be denied on the basis that Petitioner failed to set forth a claim upon which relief may be granted.

On January 18, 2018, the Board transferred the matter to the OAL for a hearing 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.

The case was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Margaret M. Monaco.

The parties subsequently voluntarily agreed to resolve the matter and entered into a signed Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") that was submitted to the ALJ on April 11, 2019.

Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, and in order to fully resolve this matter, PSE&G agreed to credit Petitioner's account in the amount of \$3,000.00, reducing Petitioner's bill from \$6,667.69 to \$3,667.69, with the remainder to be subject to a deferred payment arrangement ("DPA"), beginning with the April 2019 bill. The settlement requires Petitioner to maintain payments on the current charges plus the DPA amount of \$61.00 for 59 consecutive months, with the final payment of \$68.69 for the 60<sup>th</sup> month.

By Initial Decision issued on April 17, 2019, and submitted to the Board on April 26, 2019, ALJ Monaco found that the Stipulation was voluntary, its terms fully disposed of all issues in controversy, it was consistent with the law, and that it satisfied the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1.

After review of the Initial Decision and the Stipulation, 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, they have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter. Accordingly, the Board <u>HEREBY</u> <u>ADOPTS</u> 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 June 7, 2019.

DATED: 5/28/19 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY: FIORDALISO PRESIDENT

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MARY (ANNA HOLDER COMMISSIONER

UPENDRÁ J. CHIVUKULA COMMISSIONER

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GORDON COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELC 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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BPU DOCKET NO. EC18111223U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 01197-19

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## ROBERT GREWE

V.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

## BPU DOCKET NO. EC18111223U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 01197-19

#### SERVICE LIST

Robert Grewe 805 9<sup>th</sup> Street Secaucus, NJ 07094

Justin Incardone, Esq. Associate General Regulatory Counsel PSE&G – Law Department 80 Park Plaza, T5G Newark, NJ 07102

Eric Hartsfield, Director Julie Ford-Williams, Chief Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350 <u>Eric.Hartsfield@bpu.nj.gov</u> Julie.Ford@bpu.nj.gov

Peter Van Brunt, DAG Division of Law Post Office Box 45029 Newark, NJ 07101 peter.vanbrunt@law.njoag.gov

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State of New Jersev

# RECEIVED CASE MANAGEMENT

APR 2 6 2019

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TRENTON NJ

INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT OAL DKT. NO. PUC 01197-19 AGENCY DKT. NO. EC18111223U

**ROBERT GREWE**,

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PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC

Respondent.

. Robert Grewe, petitioner, pro se

Justin Incardone, Esq., for respondent

Record Closed: April 16, 2019

Decided: April 17, 2019

CMS Legal DAG Customerdssur K. Birnham D. Thomas E. Hartsfield J. FORD R. Lambert R. Matos S. Patraude C. Vachire

BEFORE MARGARET M. MONACO, ALJ:

This matter concerns a billing dispute by petitioner Robert Crewe against respondent Public Service Electric and Gas Company. The Board of Public Utilities transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law, where it was filed on January 23, 2019, for determination as a contested case. A settlement conference was held on March 11, 2019. The parties reached an amicable agreement and submitted under letter dated April 11, 2019 the attached Settlement Agreement setting forth the terms of agreement.

I have reviewed the record and the settlement terms and 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 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 soltlement 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.

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52:14B-10.

MARGARETIM, MONACO, ALJ

Date Received at Agency:

Date Malled to Parties:

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NAS 9563 PELA RECEIVED OF NEW JERSEY THIS APR 16 A STRATIVE LAW STATE OF affect of an a ()f)er **Robert Grewe** Petitioner OAL Docket No. PUC 01197-2019N BPU Docket No. EC18111223U ٧, STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT Public Service Electric and Gas Company, ١ Respondent

This matter having been brought before the Board of Public Utilities and Office of Administrative Law by the Petitioner Robert Grewe ("PotItioner"), against Respondent Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G") for utility service rendered by PSE&G to 805 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Secaucus, N.J. 07094 (the "Property"), and the parties having agreed to finally and fully settle this matter, hereby set forth the terms and conditions of their settlement agreement as follows:

- PSE&G agrees to credit Petitioner's account ending in 3400 in the amount of \$3,000.00. This credit will reduce Petitioner's current balance, as documented on the March 2019 bill for this account, from \$6,667.69 to \$3,667.69. Petitioner's most recent bill for account ending in 3400 reflects actual meter readings for both electric and gas meters that PSE&G obtained on March 5, 2019.
- 2. The remaining balance of \$3,667.69 on account ending in 3400 will be subject to a deferred payment arrangement (DPA), beginning with the

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April 2019 bill for this account. Petitioner will pay the current monthly gas and electric charges, plus the DPA amount of \$61.00, for 59 consecutive months. On the 60<sup>th</sup> month, the petitioner will pay the current monthly charges plus \$68.69 to complete the DPA.

3. If the Petitioner moves away from the Property during the term of the DPA and remains a PSE&G customer at his new residence, the terms of the DPA will remain intact and PSE&G will not deny service to Petitioner at his new residence solely because of the existence of this DPA.

- 4. Petitioner agrees to give PSE&G reasonable access to the Property within thirty (30) calendar days of the date he signs this agreement below to allow PSE&G to install an electric "ERT" meter that can be read without entering the Property.
- 5. Petitioner agrees that this settlement finally and fully resolves all issues that are raised in the petition. Petitioner further agrees to withdraw his petition against PSE&G with prejudice, and take all necessary steps to effectuate that withdrawal. Petitioner hereby releases PSE&G from any and all claims he may have or claim to have, whether known to him or unknown, that relate in any way to the claims and allegations set forth in the petition.

6. 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 tho Board, the party that is adversely affected 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.

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3-25-19 Date: ·

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James T. Walsh

PSE&G Sr. Customer Relations Consultant

Date: 3/24/2019

here

Robert Grewe

Petitioner