Agenda Date: 4/27/11 Agenda Item: VIIF



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center, Suite 801
Newark, NJ 07102
www.nj.gov/bpu/

		COSTOMER ASSISTANCE
EDITH HINTON, Petitioner)	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT
V.)	
NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER COMPANY,)	
Respondent.)	BPU Dkt. No. WC10070470U
)	OAL Dkt. No. PUC10887-10

Edith Hinton, Irvington, New Jersey, appearing pro se

Jordan S. Mersky, Esq., Vorhees, New Jersey, on behalf of Respondent, New Jersey American Water Company

BY THE BOARD:

On July 20, 2010, Edith Hinton ("Petitioner") filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting a formal hearing related to a billing dispute with New Jersey American Water 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 executed a Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") that was submitted to ALJ Moss. By Initial Decision issued on March 1, 2011, to which the Agreement was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Moss found that the Agreement 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 Agreement, Respondent, in full and final settlement of this matter, will credit Petitioner's account in the amount of \$916.64 which represents the amount owed as of December 31, 2010. In return, upon application of the credit, Petitioner has agreed to be responsible for the payment of all current charges beginning January 1, 2011, and to dismiss the petition in this matter.

After review of the record and the Settlement Agreement 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 Settlement Agreement, have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter.

Accordingly, the Board <u>HEREBY</u> <u>ADOPTS</u> the Initial Decision and the Settlement Agreement executed by the parties in their entirety as if fully set forth herein.

DATED: 4/27/11

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

LEE A. SOLOMON **PRESIDENT**

NNE M. FOX COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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

Utilities

EDITH HINTON

V.

NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. WC10070470U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC10887-10

SERVICE LIST

Edith Hinton 92 Headley Terrace Irvington, New Jersey 07111

Jordan S. Mersky, Esq. New Jersey American Water Company 1025 Laurel Oak Road Vorhees, New Jersey 08043

Eric Hartsfield, Director
Julie Ford-Williams
Division of Customer Assistance
Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Caroline Vachier, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101 CM9 Deslow DAG Vochier RPA Au-Ihan



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 10887-10

AGENCY DKT. NO. WC100704 70U

EDITH HINTON,

Petitioner.

V.

NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER COMPANY.

Respondent.

Edith Hinton, petitioner, pro se

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Jordan Mersky, Esq. on behalf of respondent (New Jersey American Water)

Record Closed: March 1, 2011

Decided: March 1, 2011

BEFORE KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ:

On October 6, 2010, 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 November 1, 2010 during which time the parties engaged in settlement discussions. Several status conferences were conducted, the last one being February 22, 2011 wherein the parties resolved all issues in this matter.

A Stipulation of Settlement was prepared and executed indicating the terms of the agreement, which are incorporated herein by reference have reviewed the record and terms of the Stipulation of Settlement and FIND:

1 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.

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.

DATE

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties: March 7, 2011

ljb

KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ

march 7, 201

DIRECTOR AND

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE



BY REGULAR MAIL

February 23, 201

Judge Kimberly Moss State of New Jersey Office of Administrative Law 33 Washington Street Newark, New Jersey 07102 OFFICE OF LEGUERSEY

Re: Hinton v. New Jersey American Water, OAL Docket PUC 10887-2010-N;

BPU Docket No. WC 1007047U

Dear Judge Moss:

Enclosed please find a fully executed Settlement Agreement in the above referenced matter. New Jersey American Water has already issued the credit to Ms. Hinton's account. By copy of this letter, I am sending Ms. Hinton a copy of the fully executed Settlement Agreement.

Jordan S. Mersky

Sincere

Deputy General Counsel

Edy Hinton v. New Jersey American Water Company

OAL Docket No. PUC 10887-2010-N BPU Docket No. WC1007047U

Settlement Agreement

This Settlement Agreement is made by and between NEW JERSEY-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC. ("NJAW"), a corporation doing business at 1025 Laurel Oak Road, Voorhees, New Jersey 08043 and Edy Hinton, a NJAW customer, ("Customer") having NJAW Account Number 18-1485427-7 for service to 92 Headley Terrace, Irvington, NJ-07111 ("Account") (NJAW and Customer are collectively hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Parties"). In consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions and terms contained herein, the Parties to this Settlement Agreement agree to be legally bound hereby as follows:

The Parties agree that NJAW will credit the Account of the Customer the amount of \$916.64, which figure represents the amount owed on the Account as of December 31, 2010, in full and final settlement in the manner as described below.

- 2. Provided NJAW credits the Account as described above, beginning January 1, 2011 the Customer will be responsible to pay all current charges on the Account.
- 3. Customer agrees to dismiss his complaint filed against NJAW under

BPU Docket No. WC1007047U

OAL Docket No. PUC 10887-2010 N with prejudice.

- 4. This Settlement Agreement shall be governed by, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. In the event that any provision of this Settlement Agreement is deemed unenforceable, those portions not deemed unenforceable shall remain in full force and effect.
- 5. Any modification of this Settlement Agreement, or additional obligation(s) assumed by either party in connection with this Settlement Agreement, shall be binding only if evidenced in writing and signed by each party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties understand and agree to the terms of this Settlement Agreement and have duly executed this Settlement Agreement on this 30day of January, 2011. The parties acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is entered into voluntarily and that no representation or inducement has been offered or made, except as contained herein. Customer further acknowledges that he has fully reviewed this Settlement and understands its contents.

NJAW:

By:

TE: 1-20-11