

Agenda Date: 7/26/17 Agenda Item: VIIA

CLISTOMER ASSISTANCE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314 Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

DEBORAH EDWARDS, Petitioner,)	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION
V.)	
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY, Respondent.)	BPU DOCKET NO. EC16060553U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 12603-16

Parties of Record:

Deborah Edwards, Petitioner, <u>pro</u> <u>se</u> **Alexander C. Stern, Esq.,** for Respondent, Public Service Electric & Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:1

By petition filed with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") on June 24, 2016, Deborah Edwards ("Petitioner" or "Ms. Edwards") disputed charges on the account associated with electric and gas service provided to her residence in Newark, New Jersey by Public Service Electric & Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Respondent").

After the filing of Respondent's answer on August 16, 2016, the Board transmitted the matter to the Office of Administrative Law for a 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. The case was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Leland S. McGee.

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 May 12, 2017.

By Initial Decision issued on May 17, 2017, and submitted to the Board on May 24, 2017, to which the Stipulation was attached and made part thereof, ALJ McGee 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.

The Stipulation, in part, provides as follows:

¹ Commissioner Upendra J. Chivukula did not participate.

Agenda Date: 7/26/17 Agenda Item: VIIA

1. Petitioner's account ending in 554 18 will be credited \$15,538.00. Prior to the application of the credit, Petitioner had an outstanding balance on the account of \$4,284.62 as of April 2017.

2. Petitioner agrees to pay the balance associated with any usage for May 2017 as well as

all bills due and owing for utility service going forward.

3. After issuance of the \$15,538.00 credit, the account will have a credit balance of \$12,253,38. PSE&G will issue Petitioner a check in that amount.2

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10(c) and N.J.A.C. 1:1-18.8, the Board issued an order on June 30, 2017, extending its time to issue a final agency decision by August 22, 2017.

After review of the Initial Decision and the Stipulation, 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, they have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter. Accordingly, the Board HEREBY ADOPTS 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 August 5, 2017.

DATED: 7/26/17

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

RICHARD S. MROZ

PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONER

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

IRENE KIM SECRETARY HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

² In reviewing the matter, the Board noted a numerical discrepancy. After applying the \$15,538.00 credit to Petitioner's outstanding April 2017 balance of \$4,284.62, the correct credit balance is \$11,253.38 and not \$12,253.38 as noted in Paragraph 3 of the Stipulation. The parties were notified of the discrepancy and on June 27, 2017, PSE&G posted an additional credit(s) so that the credit balance remains \$12,253.38 as noted in Paragraph 3 of the Stipulation. Because the credit balance will remain consistent with the terms of the Stipulation, the Board will adopt the Initial Decision.

Agenda Date: 7/26/17 Agenda Item: VIIA

DEBORAH EDWARDS

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY BPU DOCKET NO. EC16060553U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 12603-16

SERVICE LIST

Deborah Edwards 40-42 Shanley Avenue Newark, New Jersey 07108

Alexander C. Stern, Esq.
Associate General Regulatory Counsel
Public Service Electric and Gas Company
Law Department – Regulatory
80 Park Plaza, T5
Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194
Alexander.stern@pseg.com

Eric Hartsfield, Director
Julie Ford-Williams, Chief
Division of Customer Assistance
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
Eric.hartsfield@bpu.nj.gov
Julie.ford@bpu.nj.gov

Veronica Beke, DAG
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
Post Office Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101-45029
veronica.beke@law.njoag.gov

MAY 2 4 2017

MAIL RECEIVED

1135 1 2 YEV

Cms



INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 12603-16

BPU DKT. NO. EC16060553U

DEBORAH EDWARDS,

Petitioner.

٧.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY,

Respondent.

Deborah Edwards, petitioner pro se

Alexander Stern, Esq., for respondent

Record Closed: May 12, 2017

BEFORE LELAND S. MCGEE, ALJ:

Decided: May 17, 2017

b. Brantley

V. Haynes

5. Hartsfield

This matter was filed on August 16, 2016, to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) 6. Age for hearing as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to -15 and N.J.S.A. C. Vachier 52:14F1 to -13. A hearing was scheduled on May 15, 2017. During the pendency of the case at the OAL, the parties reached a Settlement.

The Settlement Agreement and Release indicating the terms of settlement was signed and is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Ir

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

- The parties have voluntarily agreed to the resolution of the within matter as evidenced by their signatures or the signatures of their representatives.
- The Settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with the law.

Therefore, ! CONCLUDE that this Consent Order meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1 and that the settlement should be approved. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the parties comply with the terms, and it is FURTHER ORDERED that the proceedings in this matter 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.

May 17, 2017	Jel She L
Date Received at Agency:	LELAND S. MCGEE, ALJ
Date Mailed to Parties:	

STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Deborah Edwards Petitioner,)) STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT
v,) OAL Docket No. PUC 12603-16N) BPU Docket No. EC16060553U
Public Service Electric and Gas Company Respondent.	/)) _) _

On or about June 29, 2016, Petitioner filed a petition in the above-referenced billing dispute. Public Service Electric & Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Respondent") filed an answer to the 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 costs, Petitioner and PSE&G agree to settle this matter on the following terms:

- 1. Petitioner's account ending in 544 18 will be credited \$15,538.00. Prior to the application of the credit, Petitioner had an outstanding balance on the account of \$4,284.62 as of April 2017.
- 2. Petitioner agrees to pay the balance associated with usage for May 2017 as well as all bills due and owing for utility service going forward.
- 3. After issuance of the \$15,538.00 credit, the account will have a credit balance of \$12,253.38. PSE&G will issue Petitioner a check in that amount.
- 4. This agreement is in full settlement of the Petition filed by Petitioner in or about August 2016.
- 5. The undersigned agree that this Settlement contains mutually balancing and interdependent provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. If 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.

PSEG SERVICES CORPORATION Attorneys for PSE&G

DATED: 5/12/17

Alexander C. Stern, Esq.

Associate General Regulatory Counsel

DATED: 5/12/17

James Walsh, PSE&G Customer Operations

DATED: 5/18/17

Deborah Edwards