Agenda Date: 04/18/19 Agenda Item: VIIA



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/

		CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE
Bernice T. Greene, Petitioner,) })	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION
v.	į	
Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Respondent)	BPU DOCKET NO. EC17101069U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 04136-18

Parties of Record:

Bernice T. Greene, petitioner *pro se*Danielle Lopez, Esq., on behalf of Respondent, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:

Petitioner, Bernice T. Greene ("Petitioner") filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities on October 23, 2017, disputing charges billed by Respondent, Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G").

In the Petition, Petitioner stated that it was incorrectly billed by PSE&G, due to diversion of service by a tenant.

PSE&G, in its answer dated November 30, 2017, contended that services were supplied and billed in accordance with the terms and conditions and rate schedules set forth in its Board approved Tariff. PSE&G requested that the relief sought be denied on the basis that Petitioner failed to set forth a claim upon which relief may be granted.

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on March 15, 2018, for consideration as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1-15 and N.J.S.A. 52:14F1-13. The case was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Gail M. Cookson.

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 March 8, 2019.

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Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, and in order to fully resolve this matter, PSE&G agreed to remove the balance of \$10,664.97 from Petitioner's account, leaving a balance of \$1770.42, as reflected in Petitioner's October, 2018 invoice. Petitioner entered into a deferred payment schedule over a six month period, during which she will pay her current balance and \$228 for 5 consecutive months, plus \$230.42 in the sixth month, in order to resolve the outstanding balance of \$1770.42 and stay current with her monthly invoices.

By Initial Decision issued on March 12, 2019, and submitted to the Board on March 20, 2019, ALJ Cookson 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 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 April 28, 2019.

DATED: 4/18/19

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

OSEPH L. FIORDALISO

PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONER

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

ÃIDA CAMACHO-WELC

SECRETARY

Although summarized in this Order, the detailed terms of the Stipulation are controlling, subject to the findings and conclusions of this Order.

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BERNICE T. GREEN

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PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. EC17101069U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 04136-18

SERVICE LIST

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State of New Jersey OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 04136-18 AGENCY DKT. NO. EC17101069U

BERNICE T. GREEN,

Petitioner,

v.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS CO.,

:Respondent.

Bernice T. Greene, petitioner pro se

Danielle Lopez, Assistant General Regulatory Counsel, for respondent (Tamara L. Linde, General Counsel, attorney)

Record Closed: March 11, 2019

Decided: March 12, 2019

BEFORE GAIL M. COOKSON, ALJ:

On or about October 17, 2017, Bernice T. Greene (petitioner) filed a dispute with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) against Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSEG or respondent) alleging improper charges to her residential utility account on the basis, inter alia, that certain tenant(s) not controlled by her incurred the charges transferred to her account. PSEG answered to the complaint on or about November 30, 2017. The file 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, on March 19, 2018.

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 04136-18

An in-person settlement conference was scheduled for April 20, 2018. Thereafter, several collateral proceedings needed to take place, which I monitored with telephonic and written status updates. Under cover of March 8, 2019, I received a fully-executed Stipulation of Settlement of all parties to this matter with a request that I enter an Initial Decision Settlement and transmit same to the Board. That agreement more completely sets forth the terms and conditions of the settlement of all issues raised by the filing of the Company.

I have reviewed the record and terms of the Stipulation 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 Stipulation of Settlement meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1 and therefore, it is ORDERED that the matter be deemed dismissed with prejudice and that these proceedings be and are hereby concluded.

I hereby FILE my initial decision with the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES for consideration.

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 04136-18

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.

March 12, 2019 DATE	GAIL M. COOKSON, ALJ
Date Received at Agency:	
Date Mailed to Parties:	
id	

Danielle Lopez Assistant General Regulatory Counsel Law Department

80 Park Plaza, T5, Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194 Tel: 973.430.6479 fax: 973.645.5983

Email: Danielle.Lopez@pseg.com

vices Corporation

March 8, 2019

Via UPS Overnight Delivery

Honorable Gail M. Cookson Office of Administrative Law 33 Washington Street Newark, NJ 07102

Re:

Bernice T. Green v. PSE&G

OAL Docket No. PUC 04136-2018N BPU Docket No. EC17101069U Stipulation of Settlement

Dear Judge Cookson:

Enclosed please find an executed Stipulation of Settlement Agreement by the parties that resolves the issues in the above-referenced matter.

We thank Your Honor for her consideration of this submission.

Very truly yours,

Danielle Lopez

Enclosure

Bernice T. Greene (via overnight delivery) cc:

James Walsh, PSE&G (via hand delivery)

STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

)	
Bernice T. Greene Petitioner,)	STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT
)	
v.)	OAL Docket No. PUC 04136-2018 N
)	BPU Docket No. EC17101069U
•)	
Public Service Electric and Gas Company)	
Respondent.)	
•		

On or about October 26, 2017, Petitioner filed a petition in the above-referenced billing dispute.

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) The parties agree that the balance of \$10,664.97, at issue in the above-referenced matter, has been removed from Petitioner's PSE&G account (ending in 706) at 129 North 17th Street, Floor 1, East Orange, New Jersey, and transferred to Lionel Greene PSE&G account number ending 8005.
- 2) The remaining balance of \$1,770.42 as reflected in the October 2018 invoice, is the responsibility of Petitioner.
- 3) Petitioner has entered into a consecutive six month deferred payment arrangement (DPA) beginning with the November 2018 bill to pay this balance.
- 4) Petitioner agrees to pay her current gas and electric charges plus an additional \$228.00 for 5 consecutive months and the current bill plus \$230.42 on the sixth month.

- 5) If the DPA is broken, PSE&G can proceed with regular collection activity as noted in New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 14:3-7.7.
- 6) This Agreement resolves and settles the dispute captioned above; Respondent and Petitioner agree that no claims or grievances can be later adjudicated relating thereto.
- 7) The undersigned agrees that this Settlement contains mutually balancing and interdependent provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS CO.

DATED: 2-26-19

/ James Walsh, PSE&G Customer Operations

Parrice T Crospe (Detitioner

DATED: 2-27-19 By: Ben

Bernice T. Greene (Petitioner)

Signed copies on file