

Agenda Date: 11/21/14 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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		<u>OCCTOMENTACE</u>
ROSE MARIE BEIRNE,)	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL
PETITIONER	ý	DECISION SETTLEMENT
	Ś	
V.	Ś	
	í	
PIVOTAL UTILITY HOLDINGS, INC., d/b/a	í	
ELIZABETHTOWN GAS,	í	BPU DOCKET NO. GC14020163U
RESPONDENT	ý	OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 08009-14

Parties of Record:

Rose Marie Beirne, Appearing Pro Se

Mary Patricia Keefe, Esq., Appearing on Behalf of Respondent, Pivotal Utility Holdings, Inc.,
d/b/a Elizabethtown Gas

BY THE BOARD1:

On February 19, 2014, Rose Marie Beirne ("Petitioner"), filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting a formal hearing regarding a billing dispute with Pivotal Utility Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Elizabethtown Gas ("Respondent") over gas service provided by Respondent.

After receiving 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. The matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Kimberly A. Moss.

While the matter was pending at the OAL, the parties entered into and signed a Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") and submitted it to ALJ Moss. The purpose of the Settlement was to fully resolve this matter without the need for future litigation and without agreeing with the merits of the allegations set out in the Petition. Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, Respondent agrees to credit Petitioner's account in the amount of \$650.84, the full balance on the disputed bill including

¹ Commissioner Upendra J. Chivukula recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest and as such took no part in the discussion or deliberation of this matter. Commissioner Dianne Solomon was not present at the 11/21/14 agenda meeting.

any interest and penalties leaving an adjusted balance of \$0.00 which covers the period from April 11, 2005, through January 5, 2014. Petitioner is not relieved of its obligation to pay charges for the provision of natural gas after January 5, 2014. Respondent shall also provide a special meter read to Petitioner in January, 2015.

On October 21, 2014, ALJ Moss issued an Initial Decision finding that the Stipulation satisfied the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1 because it was voluntary, its terms fully disposed of all issues in controversy, and it was consistent with the law. On October 23, 2014, ALJ Moss submitted the Initial Decision to the Board.

Following a review of the Initial Decision and the Stipulation of Settlement, the Board <u>HEREBY</u> 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 fully resolve all contested issues in this matter.

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

DATED: 11/21/14

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

RICHARD S. MROZ PRESIDENT

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO COMMISSIONER

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY

MEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

ROSE MARIE BEIRNE, PETITIONER V. PIVOTAL UTILITY HOLDINGS, INC., d/b/a ELIZABETHTOWN GAS, RESPONDENT BPU DOCKET NO. GC14020163U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 03009-14

SERVICE LIST

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

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INITIAL DECISION
SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 08009-14

AGENCY DKT. NO. GC14020163U

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ROSE MARIE BEIRNE,

Petitioner.

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ELIZABETHTOWN GAS,

Respondent.

Rose Marie Beirne, petitioner, pro se

Mary Patricia Keefe, Esq. and Deborah Franco, Esq. on behalf of respondent

Record Closed: October 22, 2014

Decided: October 22, 2014

BEFORE KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ:

On June 26, 2014, 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 scheduled and conducted during which time a hearing was scheduled. On the date of the hearing the parties resolved all issues in dispute and the settlement was placed on the record, via telephone. On October 16, 2014 the undersigned received a copy of the Settlement Agreement, via fax. On December 24, 2012 the original, fully executed Settlement Agreement was received, which is attached hereto for reference.

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I have reviewed the record and terms of the Stipulation of Settlement and FIND: RECEIVED

- 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.

10-21-14		(alle)
DATE		KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ
Date Received at Agency:		
Date Mailed to Parties:	r	



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October 15, 2014

VIA REGULAR MAIL & FACSIMILE (973-648-2358)

Honorable Kimberly Moss Administrative Law Judge Office of Administrative Law 33 Washington Street Newark, New Jersey 07102

Re Rose Marie Beirne v. Elizabethtown Gas BPU Docket No. GC14020163U

Dear Judge Moss:

Enclosed for filing is a fully executed Stipulation of Settlement to resolve the above-referenced proceeding. It is respectfully requested that Your Honor recommend approval of the Stipulation and grant such other relief as may be needed to fully resolve this matter.

Please feel free to contact me at (908) 771-8220 if you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Patricia Keefe by Sox

Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Assistant Corporate Sec etary

cc: Rose Marie Beirne

STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

2014 OCT 22 P 3: 48

Rose Marie Beirne :

BPU Docker No. GC14020163UCTY

VS.

Elizabethtown Gas

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS, on or about February 19, 2014, Rose Marie Beirne ("Petitic ner") filed a Petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") disputing a \$650.84 charge ("Disputed Amount") from Pivotal Utility Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Elizabethtown Gas ("Elizabethtown" or "Company") for natural gas service provided to 18 Cranford Terrace, Cranford, New Jersey.

WHEREAS, Elizabethtown filed an Answer to the Petition on or about May 28, 2014 asserting that the Disputed Amount reflected a "true-up" for an amount of gas consumed by Petitioner but not billed for the period April 11, 2005 through January 5, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the parties engaged in negotiations and, in the interest of resolving this matter without further delay and cost, have decided to settle this matter by this Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation").

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. In the interest of resolving this matter without the need for future litigation and without agreeing with the merits of the allegations expressed in the Petition, Elizabethtown agrees to reduce the Disputed Amount of \$650.84 inclusive of any of interest and penalties to \$0.00 ("Adjusted Balance?") and waives any right the Company otherwise may have had to collect the Disputed Balance from Petitioner. Petitioner does not agree with the merits of Elizabethtown'. Answer but similarly wants to settle this matter in the interest of avoidin; further litigation.
- 2. The Adjusted Balance of \$0.00 covers the period April 11, 2005 through January 5, 2014. This Stipulation does not relieve Fetitioner's obligation to pay charges associated with the provision of natural gas service by the Company to Petitioner after January 5, 2014.
- 3. Elizabethtown will provide a special meter read to Petitioner in January, 2015.

- 4. This Stipulation provides for a final resolution of this proceeding.
- 5. The undersigned agree that this Stipulation contains mutually balar cing and interdependent provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. In the event any particular aspect of this Stipulation is not accepted and approved by the Board or modified by the Board, the party that is idversely affected by the modification can either accept the modification or declare this Stipulation to be null and void, and the parties shall be placed in the same position that they were in immediately prior to its execution.

PIVOTAL UTILITY HOLDINGS, INC. d/b/a ELIZABETHTOWN GAS

By:

Mary Patricia Keefe, Esq. Kuyly

Vice President

Dated:

ed: Ocean 10, 2014

Rose Marie Beirne

Rose Marie Beirne

ed: Soptember 29, 2014

Dated: