



Agenda Date: 3/26/18
Agenda Item: VIIA

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

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

Hadassah Muhammad,)	ORDER ADOPTING
Petitioner,)	INITIAL DECISION
)	
v.)	
)	
Public Service Electric and Gas Company,)	BPU DOCKET NO. EC17030303U
Respondent.)	OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 13325-17

Parties of Record:

Hadassah Muhammad, Petitioner, Pro Se
Adrian Newall, Esq. for Respondent

BY THE BOARD:

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

By petition filed with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") on March 27, 2017 ("Petition"), Ms. Hadassah Muhammad ("Petitioner") disputed charges associated with service provided by Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("Respondent," or "PSE&G").

In her petition, Petitioner stated that she was incorrectly billed by PSE&G in the amount of \$3,926.37.

Respondent, in its answer dated April 24, 2017, denied the allegations that Petitioner was incorrectly billed. PSE&G contended that services were supplied and billed in accordance with the terms, 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.

On September 11, 2017, the Board transferred the matter to the Office of Administrative Law 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") Joann Lasala Candido.

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 January 18, 2018.

Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, and in order to fully resolve this matter, PSE&G agreed to credit \$1,793.58 to Ms. Muhammad's account leaving an overdue balance of \$500.00. The remaining \$500.00 balance will be divided into four deferred payment installments. Ms. Muhammad will pay the current bill each month plus \$125.00 for four consecutive months.

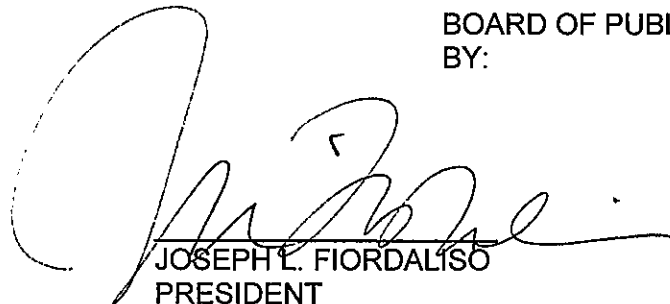
By Initial Decision issued on January 25, 2018, and submitted to the Board on March 1, 2018, to which the Stipulation was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Joann Lasala Candido found that the Stipulation was voluntary, that its terms fully disposed of all issues in controversy and that it satisfied the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1.


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 5, 2018.

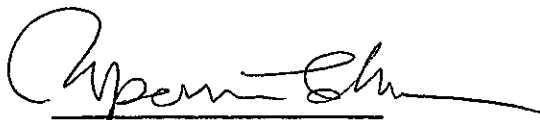
DATED: 3/26/18

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT


MARYANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER


DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER


UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER


RICHARD S. MROZ
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 
AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

HADASSAH MUHAMMAD

V.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND COMPANY
BPU DOCKET NO. EC17030303U
OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 13325-17**

SERVICE LIST

Hadassah Muhammad
900A 18th Avenue Store 1
Newark, New Jersey 07106

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Senior Counsel – Law Department
Public Service Electric & Gas Company
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Newark, New Jersey 07102

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MAIL ROOM

MAR 01 2018

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

RECEIVED
CASE MANAGEMENT

MAR 01 2018

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 13325-17

AGENCY DKT. NO. EC17030303U

HADASSAH MUHAMMAD,

Petitioner,

v.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS
COMPANY,**

Respondent.

Hadassah Muhammad, petitioner, pro se

Adrian Newall, Esq., and Jim Walsh, Esq. on behalf of respondent (PSE&G
Services Corporation)

Record Closed: January 25, 2018

Decided: January 25, 2018

BEFORE JOANN LASALA CANDIDO, ALAJ:

On September 11, 2017, 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 wherein the parties agreed on a hearing date of January 16, 2018. Prior to the hearing date respondent's counsel advised that this matter is resolved and there is no need for a hearing. On January 18, 2018 respondent submitted the Settlement Agreement which is attached hereto for reference.

cm S
K. Graham
D. Thomas
E. Hartsfield
J. Ford
R. Lambert
R. Matos
K. Flynn
D. Brantley
B. Agee
C. Vachier

I 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.

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.

January 25, 2018
DATE

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties:

ljb

JAN 30 2018

Joann Lasala Candido
JOANN LASALA CANDIDO, ALAJ

1-30-18
Lucia Sanders

DIRECTOR AND
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

Adrian D. Nowall
Senior Counsel- Law Department

Regulatory Department
30 Park Plaza, TJC, Newark, NJ 07102-4194
tel: 973.430.5146 fax: 973.430.5983
email: Adrian.nowall@pseg.com



January 12, 2018

Hadassah Muhammad
900A 18th Ave Store 1
Newark, NJ, 07106

Re: **Hadassah Muhammad v. Public Service Electric and Gas Company**
Docket # 170303U

Dear Ms. Muhammad,

Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) appreciates the productive discussions we've had with you in an effort to resolve your formal billing inquiry that you filed with the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Following our investigation, we are proposing a settlement as set forth in the next paragraphs. If you are satisfied with our response, and would like to dismiss this case, please notify the BPU by email at the following address Customer.Assistance@bpu.nj.gov

Kindly review and sign and date this settlement letter. I will fax to Judge Joann LaSala Candido at the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) about the settlement and request that the inquiry be dismissed.

This Settlement resolves and settles the dispute captioned above. Respondent and Petitioner agree that no claims or grievances can be later adjudicated relating thereto. The undersigned agrees that this Settlement contains mutually balancing and interdependent provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety.

[REDACTED]

This account has a zero balance and no longer active, account named in bankruptcy 17-18248 SLM

[REDACTED]

This account has been paid in full and is no longer active. This account was billed through our Revenue Integrity Department.



This account has a current balance of \$2,293.58. In order to resolve this petition and all billing inquiries up until the current bill dated 12/15/18, credit of \$1,793.58 will be credited leaving \$500.00 outstanding. The remaining balance of \$500.00 will be divided into four deferred payment installments, beginning with the next bill. Ms. Muhammed will pay the current bill each month plus \$125.00 for four consecutive months.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS CO.

DATED: 1/12/2018

By: James Walsh
James Walsh, PSE&G Customer Operations
On Behalf of Public Service Electric & Gas
Company (Respondent)

DATED: 1-12-18

By: Hadassah Muhammad
Hadassah Muhammad (Petitioner)