

Agenda Date: 2/10/12 Agenda Item: VIIA

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

	CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE
)	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT
)	
)	BPU DKT NO WC09100850U OAL DKT NO PUC2440-10
	) ) ) )

Parties of Record:

**Kenneth W. Redman, Jr.,** Petitioner, appearing *pro se.* **Stacy A. Mitchell**, **Esq.**, appearing on behalf of Respondent, New Jersey American Water Company

#### BY THE BOARD:

On October 15, 2009, Kenneth W. Redman, Jr. ("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") Dennis P. Blake.

While this matter was pending at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and entered into and signed a Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on January 6, 2012, and submitted to the Board on January 12, 2012, to which the Agreement was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Blake 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, and in order to fully resolve this matter, the parties have agreed that Petitioner shall pay Respondent the amount of \$4,020.03, the amount that will be outstanding on the account after Respondent has made certain adjustments and credits. In addition, Petitioner has agreed to the dismissal of his petition against Respondent with prejudice.

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. Therefore, the petition in this matter is **HEREBY DISMISSED** with prejudice.

DATED: 2/10/12

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** 

BY:

**PRESIDENT** 

NNE M. FOX MMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

**SECRETARY** 

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

### KENNETH W. REDMAN, JR.

V.

#### NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

# BPU DOCKET NO. WC09100850U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 2440-10

## **SERVICE LIST**

Kenneth W. Redman, Jr. 65 Hollywood Avenue West Long Branch, New Jersey 07764

Stacy A. Mitchell, Esq. Cozen O'Connor 457 Haddonfield Road, Suite 300 Cherry Hill, New Jersey, 08002

Eric Hartsfield, Director Julie Ford-Williams Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Carolyn McIntosh, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101 Beslow DAG (2)

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Ford-William BOARD OF MUSCIC UTILITIES NEWARK. N.J

Lee-Thomas



State of New Jersey OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW



INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 2440-10 AGENCY DKT. NO. WC09100850U

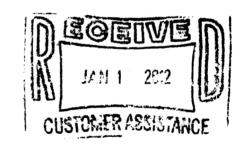
KENNETH REDMAN, JR.,

Petitioner,

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**NEW JERSEY AMERCIAN** WATER COMPANY,

Respondent.



Kenneth Redman, Jr., petitioner, pro se

Stacy A. Mitchell, Esq., for respondent (Cozen O'Connor, attorneys)

Record Closed: January 6, 2012

Decided: January 6, 2012

BEFORE DENNIS P. BLAKE, ALJ:

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on March 29, 2010, for determination 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.

The parties have agreed to a settlement and have prepared a settlement recoment indicating the terms thereof which is attached and fully incorporated harris

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

1. The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures or their representatives' signatures.

2. The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with the law.

I CONCLUDE that this agreement meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1, and that the settlement should be approved. I approve the settlement and therefore ORDER that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings 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.

DATE OF THE

DENNIS P. BLAKE, ALJ

Date Received at Agency:

1/10/12

Date Mailed to Parties:

Kenneth Redman, Jr. v. New Jersey American Water Company

OAL Docket No. PUC 02440-2010S BPU Docket No. WC 09100850U

Settlement Agreement

TOP JAN S P 1:54 This Settlement Agreement is made by and between NEW JERSEY-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC. ("NJAW"), a corporation doing business at 1025 Laurei Oak Road, Voorhees, New Jersey 08043 and Kenneth Redman, Jr., a NJAW customer, ("Customer") having NJAW Account Number 153-9 for service to 65 Hollywood Avenue, West Long Branch, NJ 07764-183 ("Account") (NJAW and Customers 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:

- 1. In full and final settlement of the matter referenced above, the Parties agree that the Customer will pay NJAW the amount of \$4,020.03, which figure represents entire amount due and owing on the Account on the date hereof, after giving effect to certain adjustments and credits made on the Account by NJAW...
- 2. Customer agrees to dismiss his complaint filed against NJAW under

BPU Docket No. WC 09100850U OAL Docket No. PUC 02440-2010S with prejudice.

- 3. 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.
- 4. 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 27 day of July, 2011. The perties 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.