



Agenda Date: 1/21/15  
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/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

<b>MAGDA SYMONDS,</b>	)	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL
Petitioner	)	DECISION AND
	)	SETTLEMENT
V.	)	
	)	
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY,</b>	)	BPU DOCKET NO. EC14070673U
Respondent	)	OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 13176-14

**Parties of Record:**

**Magda Symonds**, Petitioner, *pro se*  
**Alexander C. Stern, Esq.**, on behalf of Respondent, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

BY THE BOARD<sup>1</sup>:

On or about June 30, 2014, Magda Symonds (“Petitioner”) filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) requesting a formal hearing related to a billing dispute with Public Service Electric and Gas Company (“Respondent” or “PSE&G”) 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”), where it was filed on October 14, 2014, 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”) James A. Geraghty.

While this matter was pending at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and entered into and signed a Stipulation of Settlement (“Settlement”) that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on December 30, 2014, and submitted to the Board on the same day, to which the Settlement was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Geraghty found that the Settlement 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 Settlement, and in order to fully resolve this matter, the parties agreed that PSE&G would make a credit adjustment to Ms. Symonds’ account, ending with the numbers 39518, in the amount of \$2,819.65. This

<sup>1</sup> 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.

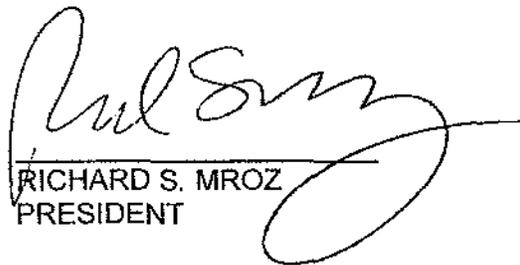
adjustment reduced the amount owed to \$2,819.65. Petitioner agreed to make a payment in the amount of \$2,819.65 within 30 days of this approved Settlement. On January 5, 2015, staff was advised that Ms. Symonds made the required payment and PSE&G issued the credit.

After review of the record and the Settlement 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, have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter.

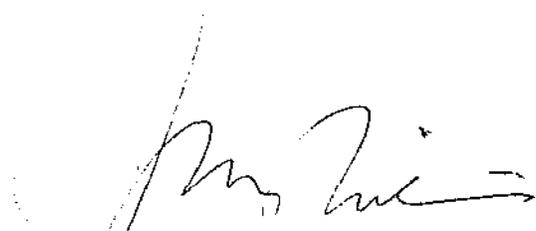
Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY ADOPTS** the Initial Decision and the Settlement executed by the parties in their entirety as if fully set forth herein.

DATED: 1/21/15

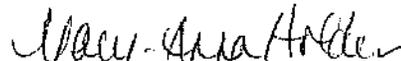
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:



RICHARD S. MROZ  
PRESIDENT



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO  
COMMISSIONER

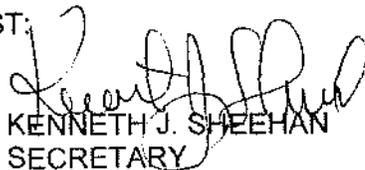


MARY-ANNA HOLDEN  
COMMISSIONER



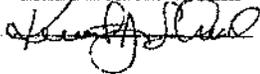
DIANNE SOLOMON  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



KENNETH J. SHEEHAN  
SECRETARY

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



MAGDA SYMONDS

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. EC14070673U

OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 13176-14

SERVICE LIST

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**RECEIVED** **State of New Jersey**  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW



DEC 31 2014

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
MAIL ROOM

**INITIAL DECISION**

**SETTLEMENT**

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 13176-14

AGENCY DKT. NO. EC14070673U

**MAGDA SYMONDS,**

Petitioner,

v.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND  
GAS COMPANY,**

Respondent.

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**Magda Symonds, petitioner. pro se**

**Alexander C. Stern, Esq., for respondent**

Record Closed: December 29, 2014

Decided: December 30, 2014

**BEFORE JAMES A. GERAGHTY, ALJ:**

This matter concerns a billing dispute by petitioner Magda Symonds against respondent Public Service Electric and Gas Company. The Board of Public Utilities transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), where it was filed on October 14, 2014, for hearing as a contested case, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq.

The parties have agreed to settle this matter and have prepared the attached agreement indicating the terms of settlement.

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

- 1 The parties have agreed to settle this matter and have prepared the attached agreement indicating the terms of settlement.
- 2 The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with the law.

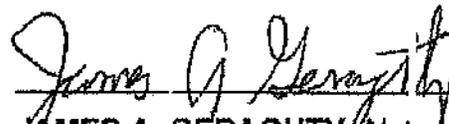
I **CONCLUDE** that this agreement meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 17:27-19.1 and that the settlement should be approved. I approve the settlement and, therefore, **ORDER** that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings be concluded.

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.

December 30, 2014

DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES A. GERAGHTY, ALJ

Date Received at Agency:

December 30, 2014

Date Mailed to Parties:

jb

\_\_\_\_\_