



Agenda Date: 9/11/15
Agenda Item: VIIA

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

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

EDWARD E. CURRAN,
Petitioner

v.

SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY,
Respondent

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ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL
DECISION SETTLEMENT

BPU DOCKET NO. GC14101142U
OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 2712-15

Parties of Record:

Edward E. Curran, appearing *pro se*
Stacey M. Barnes, Esq., on behalf of Respondent, South Jersey Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:¹

On October 9, 2014, Edward E. Curran ("Petitioner"), filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting a formal hearing related to a billing dispute with South Jersey Gas 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") W. Todd Miller.

While this matter was pending at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and entered into and signed a Settlement Agreement ("Settlement") that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on July 31, 2015, and received by the Board on August 7, 2015, to which the Settlement was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Miller 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 have agreed to the following:

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.

1. Respondent shall credit \$2,000.00 to Petitioner's account for gas service in full satisfaction and settlement of the billing dispute.
2. To satisfy the remainder of the outstanding bill, which is estimated to be approximately \$4,000.00, Petitioner shall continue to pay \$937.00 per month until the outstanding balance is fully paid.
3. In addition to the agreement that the Settlement fully resolves any and all disputes associated with the billing dispute, Respondent agrees that it will not pursue any further action associated with the illegal connection of gas service.

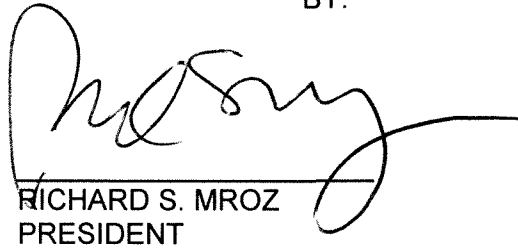
After review of the record and the Settlement Agreement of the parties, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** that the parties have voluntarily agreed to the Settlement as evidenced by their signatures and that by the terms of the Settlement Agreement have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter.

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

The effective date of this Order shall be September 21, 2015.

DATED: 9-11-15

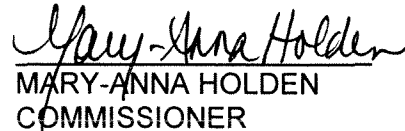
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



RICHARD S. MROZ
PRESIDENT



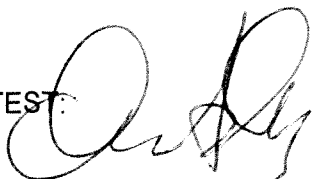
JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER

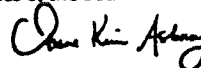


DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 

IRENE KIM ASBURY
SECRETARY

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



EDWARD E. CURRAN

V.

SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. GC14101142U

OAL DOCKET NO. PUC2712-15

SERVICE LIST

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112 South Dover Avenue
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

Stacey M. Barnes, Esq.
South Jersey Gas Company
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RECEIVED

AUG 07 2015

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
MAIL ROOM



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

AUG 07 2015
cms

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 2712-15

AGENCY DKT. NO. GC14101142U

EDWARD E. CURRAN

Petitioner

v.

SOUTH JERSEY GAS CO.

Respondent

Edward E. Curran, petitioner, pro se

Stacey M. Barnes, Esq., for respondent, South Jersey Gas

Record Closed: July 15, 2015

Decided: July 31, 2015

BEFORE W. TODD MILLER, ALJ:

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on February 24, 2015, 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 Agreement indicating the terms thereof, which is attached and fully incorporated herein.

cms
V. Haynes
D. Leitham
E. Hartsfield
J. Ford
C. Jordan
R. Lambert
E. Bestow
J. Gorkis
C. Uchner

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

1. The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures or their representatives' signatures and as placed on the record on January 15, 2015.
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. 1:1-10.1 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.

July 31, 2015
DATE

W. Todd Miller
W. TODD MILLER, ALJ

Date Received at Agency:

8/5/15

Date Mailed to Parties:

8/5/15

/jb

Edward Curran v S.J. Gas PUC 27 12-15

South Jersey Gas Company agrees to credit account number #1-11-31- [redacted] Edward Curran for \$2,000.00 in full satisfaction of billing dispute, OAL Docket number GC 1410112U. Mr. Curran will continue to pay \$937.00 per month until the balance is paid off. (Estimated at \$4000)

Both parties agree that this agreement settles the outstanding billing dispute. Further, South Jersey Gas agrees that it will not pursue any further action for the alleged gas hook up.

7/15/15

[Signature]

Edward Curran
x 112 S. Dover Ave, Atlantic City, NJ

7/15/15

[Signature]

Stacey M. Barnes, Esq.
for South Jersey Gas

Agency Ref GC 14101142 U