

Agenda Date: 5/31/17 Agenda Item: VIIA

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314 Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

	CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE
)	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION
)	
)	BPU DOCKET NO. EC16101044U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 01177-17
	) ) ) ) )

#### Parties of Record:

Ernestine Jordan, Petitioner, pro se Alexander C. Stern, Esq., on behalf of Respondent, Public Service Electric & Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:

### PROCEDURAL HISTORY

By petition filed with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") on October 31, 2016, ("Petition"), Ernestine Jordan ("Petitioner" or "Ms. Jordan") disputed charges associated with electric and gas service provided to her residence in Camden, New Jersey by Public Service Electric & Gas Company ("PSE&G", "Respondent", or "Company"). On December 21, 2016, PSE&G filed a Verified Answer to the Petition with affirmative defenses. On January 25, 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") Mary Ann Bogan.

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 April 17, 2017. In the Stipulation, Petitioner agreed that she owed a total of \$3,563.00 to Respondent. Petitioner agreed to satisfy this balance by paying \$198.00 per month for 18 consecutive months, due to Respondent no later than the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month, with the first payment due with the April 9, 2017 bill. By Initial Decision issued on April 17, 2017, and submitted to the Board on April 18, 2017 to which the Stipulation was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Bogan 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.

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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 June 10, 2017

DATED: 5/31/17

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** BY:

RICHARD S. MRO **PRESIDENT** 

ŰOSEPH L.ÆÍORDALÍSO

COMMISSIÓNER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

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

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#### **ERNESTINE JORDAN**

V.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY BPU DOCKET NO. EC16101044U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 01177-17

### **SERVICE LIST**

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APR 1 8 2017

State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MAIL ROOM

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 01177-17 AGENCY DKT. NO. EC16101044U

ERNESTINE JORDAN,

Petitioner,

**PUBLIC SERVICE** 

ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY,

Respondent.

Ernestine Jordan, petitioner, pro se

Samuel A. Wolfe, Esq., Senior Counsel, and Alexander C. Stern, Esq., Associate General Regulatory Counsel, for respondent, Public Service Electric & Gas Company

Record Closed: April 17, 2017

Decided: April 17, 2017

BEFORE MARY ANN BOGAN, ALJ:

This proceeding involves a billing dispute. The petition was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on January 25, 2017, for determination as a contested case.

The parties filed on April 17, 2017, a Stipulation of Settlement (J-1) which resolves all issues in this proceeding. Said Stipulation of Settlement has been signed by petitioner and respondent. It indicates the terms of settlement, and is attached and fully incorporated herein.

New Jersey is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CMS Hayres Di Thomas Hartifalel To Ford

Lambre. C. Vachie I have reviewed 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 on the attached document.
- 2. The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy between the parties and is consistent with the law.

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.

April 7 , 2017  DATE	MARY ANN BOGAN, ALJ
Date Received at Agency:	4/18/17
Date Mailed to Parties:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	nd .

# <u>APPENDIX</u>

# **EXHIBITS**

# Jointly Submitted

J-1 Stipulation of Settlement

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

RECEIVED

2017. APR 17	
STATE OF NEW	V JERSEY
OFFICE OF ME	MIN LAW

		STATE OF NEW JERSE OFFICE OF ARMINEA
Ernestine Jon	rdan Petitioner,	) ) STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT
v.		) OAL Docket No. PUC 01177-2017 S BPU Docket No. EC16101044U
Public Servic	e Electric and Gas Compa Respondent.	) ny) )
		,

On or about November 1, 2016, Petitioner filed a petition in the above-referenced billing dispute.

In the interests of resolving this matter without further delay, extensive effort, and costs, Petitioner and PSE&G agree to settle this matter on the following terms:

- Petitioner currently has an outstanding balance on her PSE&C account number ending in 393 01, in the amount of \$3,563.00.
- Petitioner hereby enters into an 18-month deferred payment arrangement (DPA) on the remaining outstanding balance of \$3,563.00 on account number ending 393 01.
- Petitioner's payments under the DPA start with the April 9, 2017 billing. Petitioner shall pay her monthly charges, plus \$198.00 per month for 18 consecutive months, due on company records by the 24th of each month.
- If Petitioner fails to make a payment under paragraph 3 above, PSE&G may discontinue service after providing Petitioner with notice of discontinuance and proceed with regular collection activity as provided in the New Jersey Administrative Code, N.J.A.C. 14:3-7.7.
- This Agreement resolves all of Petitioner's disputes set forth in her petition and her other documents related to this matter; Respondent and Petitioner agree that no claims or grievances can be later adjudicated relating thereto.

6) The undersigned agree that this Settlement contains mutually balancing and interdependent provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety.

By.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS CO.

DATED: 4-11-17

Attamounter C. stein

Samuel A. Wolfe, Senior Counsel
Hexander C. Stern, Assente General Regulatory Counsel

DATED: 4-11-17

James Walsh, PSE&G Customer Operations

DATED: 4(7/17

Expestine Jordan