



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

George Hampton,
Petitioner

v.

Public Service Electric and Gas Company,
Respondent

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ORDER ADOPTING
INITIAL DECISION

BPU DOCKET NO. EC17080850U
OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 03681-18

Parties of Record:

George Hampton, Petitioner, pro se
Adrian D. Newall, for Respondent, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:¹

By petition filed with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") on August 7, 2017 ("Petition"), George Hampton ("Petitioner") disputed charges associated with service provided by Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("Respondent", or "PSE&G").

In his petition, Mr. Hampton stated that PSE&G incorrectly billed his account in the amount of \$13,891.66 for a property that was not his residence. He further stated that he had owned the property, but had never lived there.

PSE&G, in its answer dated September 11, 2017, denied the allegations that Mr. Hampton was incorrectly billed. PSE&G contended that services were supplied and billed in accordance with terms and conditions and rate schedules set forth in its Board approved Tariff. PSE&G requested that the relief sought be denied on the basis that Mr. Hampton failed to set forth a claim upon which relief may be granted.

On March 8, 2018, 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.

¹ Commissioner Robert M. Gordon did not participate.

The case was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Kimberly A. Moss.

While this matter was pending in the OAL, the parties voluntarily agreed to resolve the matter and entered into a signed Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") that was submitted to the ALJ on July 30, 2018. Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, and in order to fully resolve this matter, PSE&G agreed to credit Mr. Hampton's account in the amount of \$12,691.66 leaving a balance of \$1,200.00. Mr. Hampton will enter into a 12 month payment arrangement to pay the remaining balance. Mr. Hampton also agreed to pay his PSE&G bills on a timely basis going forward.

By Initial Decision issued on July 30, 2018, and submitted to the Board on August 1, 2018, ALJ Moss 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.

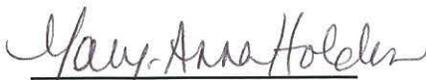
The effective date of this Order is September 8, 2018.

DATED: 8/29/18

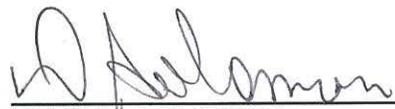
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



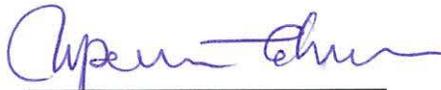
JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

GEORGE HAMPTON, PETITIONER

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY, RESPONDENT

**BPU DOCKET NO. EC17080850U
OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 03681-18**

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RECEIVED
CASE MANAGEMENT

AUG 01 2018

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

AUG 01 2018

MAIL RECEIVED

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 03681-18

AGENCY DKT. NO. EC17080850U

GEORGE HAMPTON,

Petitioner,

v.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS,

Respondent.

George Hampton, petitioner, pro se

Adrian D. Newall, Esq. and James T. Walsh, Esq., on behalf of respondent

Record Closed: July 30, 2018

Decided: July 30, 2018 .

BEFORE KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ:

On March 9, 2018, 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 conducted during which time the parties agreed on a hearing date of August 1, 2018. Prior to the hearing date, OAL received a Stipulation of Settlement resolving all issues in dispute which is attached hereto for reference.

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.

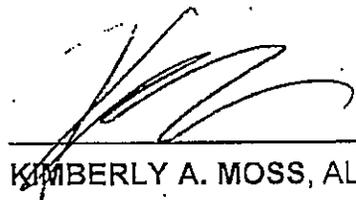
I **CONCLUDE** that the agreement meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1 and therefore, it is **ORDERED** that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings be and are hereby concluded.

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.

7-30-18

DATE



KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ

Date Received at Agency: _____

Date Mailed to Parties: _____

ljb

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

RECEIVED

2018 JUL 30 A 7 54

George Hampton)

) BPU DOCKET NO. EC17080850U
) OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 03681-2018N

Petitioner,)

v.)

) STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

Public Service Electric & Gas Company)

Respondent.)

On or about August 2017, Petitioner filed the above-referenced Billing Dispute. Public Service Electric & Gas Company ("PSE&G" or "Respondent") filed an answer to the petition and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBP" or "Board") transmitted the matter to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") as a contested case for adjudication.

In the interest of resolving this matter amicably and to avoid further delay and costs to Petitioner and Respondent (the "Parties"), the Parties hereto agreed to settle this matter in accordance with the following terms:

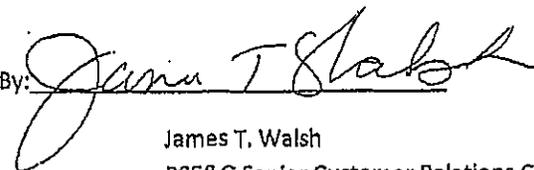
1. This Settlement Agreement represents the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the subject matter of the Dispute. All prior settlement discussions merge into this Settlement Agreement including Superior Court of New Jersey Law Division, Civil Part Essex County. Docket ESX-L-5390 17.
2. The Parties acknowledge and agree that the settlement of the Dispute, the consideration referenced herein, and the execution of this Settlement Agreement, are the result of compromise and are entered into in good faith and shall never for any purpose be considered an admission of liability or of responsibility concerning any of the claims referred

to in the Dispute, and no past or present wrongdoing on the part of any of them shall be implied by such consideration or execution.

3. Although not agreeing with the merits of the allegations expressed in the Petition, in the interest of good customer relations, PSE&G agrees to credit Petitioner's account from 140 Littleton Ave, Newark, N.J. in the amount of \$12,691.66 leaving a balance of \$1,200.00. That balance will be transferred to petitioner's active account at 37 Oakland Terrace, Newark, N.J. Beginning August 2018, this outstanding balance will be entered into a deferred payment arrangement and paid over 12 consecutive billing periods along with scheduled monthly bills at 37 Oakland Terrace. The Petitioner will pay the current July 2018 charges of \$156.18 on or before 7/23/18.
4. Respondent will also dismiss Case with prejudice.
5. This agreement is in full settlement of the claims set forth in the Petition filed by Petitioner, on or about August 15, 2017.
6. The undersigned agree that this Settlement contains mutually balancing and interdependent provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. In the event any particular aspect of this Settlement is not accepted and approved by the Board or modified by the Board, the party that is adversely affected by the modification can either accept the modification or declare this Settlement to be null and void, and the Parties shall be placed in the same position that they were in immediately prior to its execution.

DATED: 7-11-18

By:

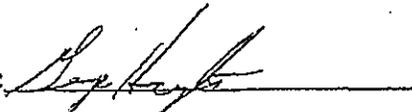


James T. Walsh
PSE&G, Senior Customer Relations Consultant

DATED:

7/14/18

By:



George Hampton
Petitioner