

Agenda Date: 8/21/13 Agenda Item: VIIB

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
AUGUSTINE UKEACHU, Petitioner)	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT
V.)	
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY, Respondent))	BPU DKT. NO. EC12080793U OAL DKT. NO. PUC14228-12

Parties of Record:

Augustine Ukeachu, appearing <u>pro se</u>

Amanda Johnson, Esq., appearing on behalf of Respondent, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

BY THE BOARD:

On September 10, 2012, Augustine Ukeachu ("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") 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") Leland S. McGee.

While this matter was pending at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and entered into and signed a Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") that was submitted to the Administrative Law Judge. By Initial Decision issued on July 17, 2013 and submitted to the Board on July 19, 2013, to which the Stipulation was attached and made part thereof, ALJ McGee 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.

Pursuant to the Stipulation, and in order to resolve this matter without further delay, extensive effort and costs, the parties have agreed that Respondent will apply a \$400.00 credit to Petitioner's arrears balance of \$819.61 leaving an arrears balance of \$419.61. In return, Petitioner shall pay the arrears balance of \$419.61 in monthly installment payments of \$35.00

plus current charges over a period of twelve (12) months. Payments shall be due in full on the date specified on the invoice submitted to Petitioner and failure to follow this installment plan will void the Stipulation and the remaining charges shall be due in full.

After review of the Initial Decision and the Stipulation of Settlement of the parties, the Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> that the parties have voluntarily agreed to the Stipulation as evidenced by their signatures and that by the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter.

Accordingly, the Board <u>HEREBY ADOPTS</u> the Initial Decision and Stipulation of Settlement executed by the parties in their entirety as if set forth at length herein.

DATED: 8/21//3

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

ROBERT M. HANNA

JEANNE M. FOX COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO COMMISSIONER

MARY ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER

DIANNE'SOLOMOI COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within docume. It is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Intilities 4 # ##

AUGUSTINE UKEACHU

V.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. EC12080793U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC14228-12

SERVICE LIST

Augustine Ukeachu 61 Myrtle Avenue, Apt. B2 Irvington, NJ 07111

Amanda Johnson, Esq. PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza – T5 Newark, NJ 07102-4194

Eric Hartsfield, Director Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Julie Ford-Williams
Division of Customer Assistance
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Carolyn McIntosh, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street Post Office Box 45029 Newark, NJ 07101-45029 pul/22/13

REC'D

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CASE MADE PET 2017



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION
SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 14228-12 AGENCY DKT. NO. EC12080793U

AUGUSTINE UKEACHU,

Petitioner,

٧.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY,

Respondent.

Augustine Ukeachu, petitioner, pro se

Amanda Johnson, Esq., for respondent

Record Closed: July 17, 2013

Decided: July 17, 2013

BEFORE LELAND S. MCGEE, ALJ:

On October 19, 2012, 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 hearing date was scheduled for July 17, 2013. During the pendency of the case at the OAL, the parties reached a Settlement. A Settlement Agreement was prepared and executed indicating the terms of the agreement, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Attachment

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

- The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their agreement or their representatives' agreement as set forth above.
- 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.

July 17, 2013 DATE	LELAND S. MCGEE, ALJ
Date Received at Agency:	July 17, 2013
Date Mailed to Parties:	

Stipulation of Settlement

Angustin Ukenchu, Petitioner,

Public Service Electric and Gras Company, Respondent.

BPU Docket No. FULLY228 2003

On ex about August 30, 2012, Petitioner, Augustine Ukeacher ("Petitioner") filed the above-referenced billing dispute Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE+G" or "Respondent") filed an Answer to Petitioner's petition and the New Jersey Bard of Public Utilities ("N) PPW" or "Board") transmitted the Mother to the Office of Administrative Cau ("DAL") as a contexted cause for adjudication.

In the interests at resolving this matter without further delay, extensive effort and costs ofhe parties hereto agreed to settle whis months in accordance with the following terms:

1. PS E+G will apply a \$400.00 credit to Petitioner arrears balance of \$819.61. The arrears balance will then be \$419.61.

2. Petitioner will pay the arrears balance of \$419.61 in installment pregnents of \$35.00 a month plus current charges over a period of 12 months. Payments are due in full on the darkes specified on Retitioner's menthly invoices. Failure to follow the installment plan will void this agreement and charges will be due in full.

3. The undersigned agree that this Settlement

contains mutually balancing and interstephilitent for provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety. In the event any particula aspect at this Settlement is not accepted and approved by the Board or modified by the Board, the party that is adversely affected by the modification or declar this Settlement to be sell and used, and the parties shall be placed in the same position that they were in immediately prior to its execution.

Public Service Etectric and Gas Compres

Stal Scall 7/17/13

Edward Sullivan Date

PSEG Services Corporation

Amanch Stanson, Esq. 7/17/13

Amanch Stanson, Esq. Date

Augustine Ukeachu

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Pet tioner

MIDLAND FUNDWONEW JERSEY JUDICIARY

Plaintiff

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