



Agenda Date: 3/18/16
Agenda Item: VIIA

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

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

MARIO AND ANA VALLADARES,)	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL
Petitioners)	DECISION SETTLEMENT
)	
v.)	
)	
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY)	BPU Docket No. EC15060750U
Respondent)	OAL Docket No. PUC 15154-15

Parties of Record:

Mario and Ana Valladares, Petitioners pro se
Alexander C. Stern, Esq., PSEG Services Corporation, Respondent PSE&G

BY THE BOARD:

On June 29, 2015, Mario and Ana Valladares (“Petitioners”) filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) related to a billing dispute with Public Service Electric and Gas Company (“PSE&G” or “Respondent”) for electric and gas utility services rendered by Respondent to the Petitioners’ 62nd Street premises in West New York, New Jersey (“account”).

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”) Thomas R. Betancourt.

The parties subsequently voluntarily agreed to resolve the matter and entered into a signed Stipulation of Settlement (“Stipulation”) that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on February 22, 2016, and submitted to the Board on February 23, 2016, to which the Stipulation was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Betancourt 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 terms of the Stipulation and in order to fully resolve this matter, the parties agreed to an outstanding balance of \$10,196.29 on the account. Respondent has agreed to credit \$4,196.29 to Petitioners, thereby reducing the balance due to \$6,000.00. After application of the credit, Petitioners have agreed to pay \$1,000.00 by February 17, 2016. Petitioners have

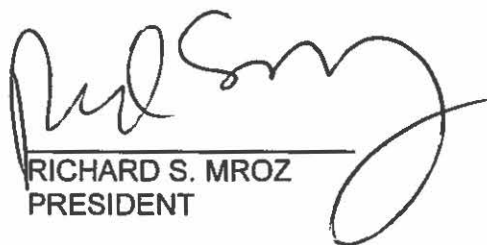
also agreed to submit 10 monthly payments of \$500.00 to clear the remaining balance due on the account and to maintain current payments for all future monthly usage charges, beginning with the March 2016 bill.

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 March 28, 2016.

DATED: 3-18-16

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



RICHARD S. MROZ
PRESIDENT




JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER



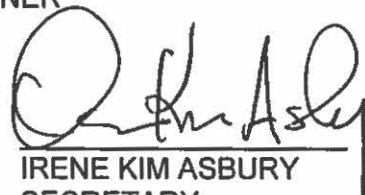
MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



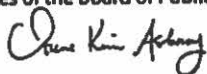
DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
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



MARIO AND ANA VALLADARES

v.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

BPU Docket No. EC15060750U

OAL Docket No. PUC 15154-15

SERVICE LIST

Mario W. Valladares and Ana D. Valladares
225 62nd Street, 2nd Floor
West New York, NJ 07093

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9. 2 2015
MS

MAIL RECEIVED

State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION-

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 15154-15

AGY REF NO. EC15060750U

MARIO AND ANA VALLADARES,

Petitioner

v.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

Respondent.

Mario Valladares and Ana Valladares, petitioner, pro se

Alexander C. Stern, Esq., for respondent PSE&G Electric & Gas Company

Record Closed: February 19, 2016

Decided: February 22, 2016

MS
V. Haynes
D. Leetromms
E. Hartsfield
J. Ford
C. Jordan
R. Lambert
B. Agee
J. Gertsma
C. Vachier

BEFORE THOMAS R. BETANCOURT, ALJ:

Petitioner disputes utility bills received from respondent.

The Board of Public Utilities transmitted the contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to 15 and N.J.S.A. 52:14f-1 to 13, to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), where it was filed on September 23, 2015.

The parties have voluntarily agreed to resolve all disputed matters and have entered into a settlement as set forth in the attached settlement agreement.

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

1. The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures and/or the signature of their respective representatives on the attached settlement agreement; and,
2. The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy between the parties.

ORDER

It is hereby **ORDERED** that the parties comply with the terms of the settlement agreement; and

It is further **ORDERED** that petitioner's appeal is withdrawn with prejudice.

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.

Within thirteen days from the date on which this recommended decision was mailed to the parties, any party may file written exceptions with the **SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, 44 South Clinton Avenue, P.O. Box 350, Trenton, NJ 08625-0350**, marked "Attention: Exceptions." A copy of any exceptions must be sent to the judge and to the other parties.

2/22/16
DATE


THOMAS R. BETANCOURT, ALJ

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

2015 FEB 19 10:26 AM

Mario and Ana Valladares)
) BPU DOCKET NO. EC15060750U
) OAL DOCKET NO. PUC15154-2015N
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.)
) STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT
 Public Service Electric & Gas Company)
)
 Respondent.)

On or about July 1, 2015, 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 interests of resolving this matter amicably and to avoid further delay and costs to the parties, the parties hereto agreed to settle this matter in accordance with the following terms:

1. Petitioner and PSE&G (collectively, "the Parties") acknowledge that as of February 10, 2016, there is a \$10,196.29 outstanding balance associated with electric and gas utility service for Petitioner's utility account located at 225 62nd Street, West New York, New Jersey 07093.

2. In the interests of good customer relations and to help facilitate an amicable resolution of this matter, PSE&G agrees to credit Petitioner's account \$4,196.29. In doing so, the outstanding overdue balance associated with Petitioner's electric and gas utility service will be reduced to \$6,000.

3. The Parties have agreed to a deferred payment arrangement ("DPA") in which Petitioner has agreed to pay \$1,000 by no later than February 17, 2016 and \$500 per month plus current bills for ten (10) months. Petitioner is not foreclosed from paying more than \$500 per month towards the DPA or from paying off the \$6,000 settlement amount due prior to the 10-month deferred payment period allotted.

4. Petitioner agrees to timely pay his PSE&G monthly bills for electric and gas service as well as the \$500 per month associated with the DPA. The DPA shall

commence as of Petitioner's March 2016 monthly bill and reference to the DPA will be included in Petitioner's utility bill.

5. If Petitioner fails to keep the agreement as set forth in the deferred payment arrangement established above and/or fails to make payments associated with current electric and gas service, Petitioner understands that PSE&G would be entitled to all amounts due and owing at that time and that PSE&G may exercise its authority in accordance with its tariffs and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 14:3-3A.1 et seq. to discontinue service.

6. In addition to payments under the deferred payment arrangement established above, Petitioner agrees and understands that he must make timely payment of PSE&G monthly utility bills for utility service so long as he remains a PSE&G customer.

7. This agreement is in full settlement of the Petition filed by Petitioner on or about July 1, 2015.

8. 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.

PSEG SERVICES CORPORATION
Attorneys for PSE&G

DATED: 2/17/16

By: Alexander C. Stern
Alexander C. Stern, Esq.
Associate General Regulatory Counsel

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS CO.

DATED: 2-17-16

By: James T. Walsh
James T. Walsh
Senior Customer Relations Consultant

JOHN SALIERNO, ESQ.
Attorney for Petitioner

DATED: 2/12/16

By: [Signature]