

Agenda Date: 4/15/15 Agenda Item: VIID

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

)

)

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

SHELDON AND CORRINE MYERS Petitioner

۷.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY, Respondent ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT

BPU DOCKET NO. EC14101215U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 01083-15

Parties of Record:

Sheldon and Corrine Myers, appearing *pro se* Alexander C. Stern, Esq., on behalf of Respondent, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

BY THE BOARD<sup>1</sup>:

On October 17, 2014, Sheldon and Corrine Myers (collectively "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 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:14B-1 <u>et seq.</u> and <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:14F-1 <u>et seq.</u> This matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Elia A. Pelios.

While this matter was pending at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and entered into and signed a Settlement Letter ("Settlement") that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on March 31, 2015, and submitted to the Board on April 1, 2015, to which the Settlement Letter was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Pelios found that the Settlement was voluntary, that its terms fully disposed of all issues in controversy and that it satisfied the requirements of <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 1:1-19.1. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement, and in order to fully resolve this matter, the parties agreed that Respondent will credit Petitioner's 1 Cypress Lane account in the amount of \$953.00 leaving a remaining arrearage balance due of \$93.35 plus current bills.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

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

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

The effective date of this Order is April 25, 2015.

DATED: 4/15/15

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

RICHARD S. MRC PRESIDENT

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISC COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: KENNETH J. SHE AP SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the so-grinat in the files of the Board of Public Stillings

#### SHELDON AND CORRINE MYERS

V.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

#### BPU DOCKET NO.EC14101215U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC01083-15

#### SERVICE LIST

Sheldon and Corrine Myers 1 Cypress Lane Willingboro, New Jersey 08046

Alexander C. Stern, Esq. PSEG Services Corporation 80 Park Plaza – T5G Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194

Eric Hartsfield, Director Division of Customer Assistance 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Julie Ford-Williams, Chief Division of Customer Assistance 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Christopher Psihoules, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street Post Office Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07101-45029



#### State of New Jersey OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

### INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 01083-15 AGENCY DKT. NO. EC14101215U

#### SHELDON AND CORRINE MYERS,

Petitioner,

٧.

# PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY-BILLING DISPUTE,

Respondent.

Sheldon and Corrine Myers, petitioners, pro se

Alexander C. Stern, Esq., for respondent Public Service Electric and Gas Company

Christopher Psihoules, Deputy Attorney General, for the Board of Public Utilities (John J. Hoffman, Acting Attorney General of New Jersey)

Record Closed: March 17, 2015 Decided: March 31, 2015

BEFORE ELIA A. PELIOS, ALJ:

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on January 22, 2015, for determination as a contested case, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:14B-1 to -15 and <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:14F-1 to -13.

The parties have agreed to a settlement and have prepared a Stipulation of Settlement indicating the terms thereof, which is attached and fully incorporated herein.

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.
- 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 <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 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 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:14B-10.

84h

ELIA A. PELIOS, ALJ

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties:

March 31, 2015

11003.

/mel

DATE

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 01083-15

### **EXHIBITS**

## Jointly Submitted

J-1 Stipulation of Settlement

Alexander C. Stern Associate General Regulatory Counsel Law Department 80 Park Plaza, T5G, Newark, NJ 07102-4194 tel: 973.430.5754 fax: 973.430.5983 email: alexander.stern@pseg.com



March 9, 2015

#### **UPS NEXT DAY**

Sheldon & Corrine Myers 1 Cypress Lane Willingboro, NJ 08046

> Re: Sheldon & Corrine Myers v. PSE&G BPU Docket No. EC14101215U OAL Docket No. PUC01083-2015S Settlement Letter

Dear Mr. Myers:

Following from our discussion during our March 3, 2015 telephone status conference with Administrative Law Judge Pelios, this letter sets forth the settlement we agreed upon regarding your residential account at 1 Cypress Lane, Willingboro, New Jersey 08046. In the interests of good customer relations and in order to resolve this ongoing billing dispute, PSE&G will make a credit adjustment in the amount of \$953.00 on your account. This adjustment will reduce the balance owed on the account to \$93.35 plus your current bills.

Please review and advise if this was not your understanding of our conversation. If this is acceptable, please sign both copies of this letter, keep one copy for your files and send one back to me in the self-addressed stamped envelope. Upon receipt, it will be filed with Judge Pelios.

Very truly yours,

Exender a stern

Alexander C. Stern

I hereby agree to the terms of the settlement referred above and to the withdrawal of the petition in this matter with prejudice.

Date: 3/10/2015

Sheldon Myers