



Agenda Date: 2/24/16  
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/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES,	)	ORDER ADOPTING
Petitioner	)	INITIAL DECISION
	)	SETTLEMENT
v.	)	
	)	
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS	)	
COMPANY,	)	BPU DOCKET NO. EC15050624U
Respondent	)	OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 15084-15

**Parties of Record:<sup>1</sup>**

**David P. Schroth, Esq.** on behalf of Petitioner, Mercer County Board of Social Services  
**Sheree L. Kelly, Esq.**, on behalf of Respondent, PSE&G

**BY THE BOARD:**

On May 13, 2015, Mercer County Board of Social Services (“MCBSS” or “Petitioner”), filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) requesting a formal hearing related to a billing dispute with PSE&G (“Respondent”) for utility services rendered by Respondent at 171 Jersey Street, Floor 1, Trenton, New Jersey 08610 (the “Property”).

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”) Ronald W. Reba.

The parties engaged in negotiations and entered into and signed a Stipulation of Settlement (“Stipulation”) that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on January 11, 2016, and submitted to the Board on January 11, 2016 to which the Stipulation was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Reba 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.

In its petition, MCBSS stated that on or about February 27, 2014, it received an electric bill for the month of January 2014 in the amount of \$90,635.17. MCBSS stated that the bill in question

<sup>1</sup> Although the initial decision indicates that Deputy Attorney General Patricia Krogman appeared for the Staff of the Board of Public Utilities, the Deputy did not enter an appearance and Board Staff did not participate in this matter.

was triple the amount of their December 2013 and February 2014 PSE&G bills. MCBSS also stated that the meter in question was replaced even though Respondent claimed it was working properly.

PSE&G, in its answer dated August 7, 2015, denied the allegations that MCBSS 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 MCBSS failed to set forth a claim upon which relief may be granted.

Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, and in order to fully resolve this matter, PSE&G agreed to credit MCBSS's account ending in 8618 in the amount of \$25,000, leaving an outstanding balance of \$30,148.17. MCBSS agreed to pay the outstanding balance on or before December 31, 2015. On January 19, 2016, Staff was advised by PSE&G that the credit had been applied and MCBSS had made the required payment.

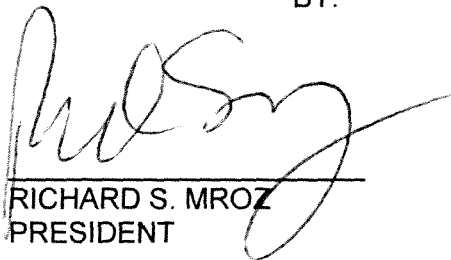
After review of the record and the Stipulation, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** that the parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures and that by the terms of the Stipulation, have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter.

Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY ADOPTS** the Initial Decision and the Stipulation executed by the parties in their entirety. The Stipulation is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

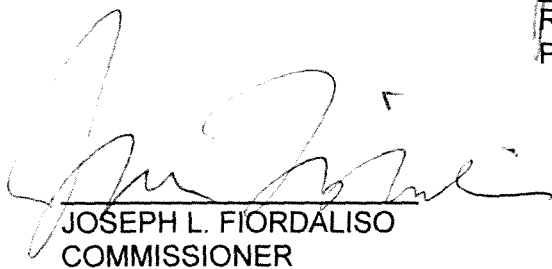
The effective date of this Order is March 5, 2016.

DATED: 2-24-16

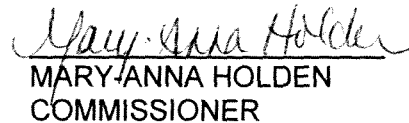
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:



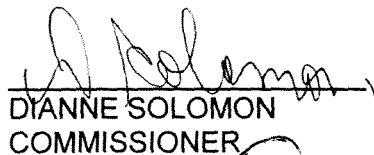
RICHARD S. MROZ  
PRESIDENT



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO  
COMMISSIONER



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN  
COMMISSIONER

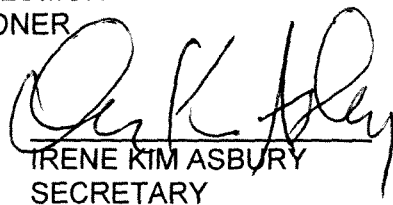


DIANNE SOLOMON  
COMMISSIONER



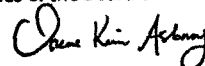
UPENDRA CHIVUKULA  
COMMISSIONER

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



**MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES, PETITIONER**

**V.**

**PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY, RESPONDENT**

**BPU DOCKET NO. EC15050624U**

**OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 15084-15**

**SERVICE LIST**

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

**INITIAL DECISION**

**SETTLEMENT**

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 15084-15

AGENCY DKT. NO. EC15050624U

**MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES,**

Petitioner,

v.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS  
COMPANY, BILLING DISPUTE,**

Respondent.

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David P. Schroth, Esq., for petitioner Mercer County Board of Social Services

Sheree L. Kelly, Esq., for respondent Public Service Electric and Gas Company  
(PSEG Services Corporation, attorneys)

Patricia Krogman, Deputy Attorney General, for the Staff of the Board of Public  
Utilities (John J. Hoffman, Acting Attorney General of New Jersey,  
attorney)

Record Closed: January 8, 2016

Decided: January 11, 2016

BEFORE RONALD W. REBA, ALJ t/a:

On September 23, 2015, 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 Settlement Agreement was prepared and executed indicating the terms of the agreement, which are incorporated herein by reference.

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 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.

January 11, 2016

DATE

Ronald W. Reba by Earl Marshall  
RONALD W. REBA, ALJ v/a *ALJ*

Date Received at Agency:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed to Parties:

\_\_\_\_\_

Attachment

/mel

Sheree L. Kelly  
Assistant General Regulatory Counsel

Law Department  
80 Park Plaza, TSG, Newark, NJ 07102-4194  
tel: 973.430.6468 fax: 973.430.5983  
email: sheree.kelly@pseg.com



January 5, 2016

**UPS NEXT DAY**

Honorable Ronald W. Reba  
Office of Administrative Law  
P.O. Box 049  
Trenton, NJ 0865-0049

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW  
JAN 06 2016

Re: Mercer County Board of Social Services v. PSE&G  
BPU Docket No.: EC15050624U  
OAL Docket No.: PUC 15084-2015 S

Dear Judge Reba:

Enclosed please find a signed Stipulation of Settlement, with reference to the above-captioned matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheree L. Kelly", written over a horizontal line.

Sheree L. Kelly

SLK/jb  
Enclosure

cc: David P. Schroth, Esq. (w/enc.)  
James T. Walsh (w/enc.)

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

2015 JUN -8 AM 10:14

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mercer County Board of Social Services  
Petitioner  
v.  
Public Service Electric and Gas Company,  
Respondent  
\_\_\_\_\_

OAL Docket No. PUC 15084-2015 S  
BPU Docket No. EC15050624U

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

This matter having been brought before the Office of Administrative Law by the Petitioner, Mercer County Board of Social Services ("Petitioner"), against Respondent Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G") for utility service rendered by PSE&G to the premises 200 Wolverton Street, Trenton, NJ 08650 (the "Property") and the Parties having agreed to settle this matter, hereby set forth the terms and conditions of their settlement agreement as follows:

1. PSE&G agrees to credit Petitioner \$25,000.00 on account no. ~~00000000000000000000~~ 86 18, leaving an outstanding balance of \$30,148.17, which shall be paid on or before December 31, 2015.

Petitioner: David P. Schroth, Esq.

Respondent: PSE&G

By: David P. Schroth

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

Date: 12/24/15

Date: 12-22-15

M.C.B.S.S.  
DEC 24 2015  
MAILROOM