



Agenda Date: 6/18/25

Agenda Item: 2B

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

ENERGY

PATRICIA CARDINALE)	DECISION AND ORDER
)	APPROVING INITIAL DECISION
V.)	AND STIPULATION
)	
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS)	DOCKET NO. EC24100778
COMPANY)	OAL DOCKET NO PUC 16061 - 24

Parties of Record:

Patricia Cardinale, Petitioner, *pro se*

Aaron Karp, Esq., on behalf of Respondent (Public Service Electric & Gas Company)

BY THE BOARD:

This matter is before the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") following an Initial Decision issued by Administrative Law Judge Matthew Miller ("ALJ Miller") on April 1, 2025 ("Initial Decision"). By this Decision and Order, which is the Final Decision in this matter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10, the Board adopts the Initial Decision in its entirety.

BACKGROUND/PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On September 23, 2024, Patricia Cardinale ("Petitioner") filed a petition with the Board concerning utility service and tree removal on her property ("Petition"). Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("Respondent" or "PSE&G") filed an answer to the Petition on October 22, 2024.

On November 12, 2024, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law as a contested case in accordance N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to 15, and N.J.A.C. 1:1-1.1 to 21.6, and assigned to Administrative Law Judge Matthew Miller ("ALJ Miller").

On March 10, 2025, the Petitioner and PSE&G entered into an agreement resolving all issues in this matter ("Stipulation"). The terms and conditions agreed upon provide that PSE&G agrees to top (i.e., remove all branches down to the height of the secondary wire at the midspan) the two (2) trees in question located on Petitioner's premise. The Respondent also agrees to dispose of all branches extracted. As part of the Stipulation, Petitioner agrees to assume responsibility for the removal and disposal of the remainder of her two (2) trees after the trees are topped and branches removed by PSE&G. The Petitioner agrees and understands that no claims or grievances can be later adjudicated relating to the matters referenced in the Petition.

On April 1, 2025, ALJ Miller issued an Initial Decision. By the Initial Decision, ALJ Miller found that the Stipulation was voluntary, consistent with the law, and fully dispositive of all issues in controversy.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10(c), the Board has forty-five (45)-days to review the Initial Decision and issue a Final Decision by May 12, 2025. On April 23, 2025, the Board ordered that the deadline for the Board to render its Final Decision be extended to June 30, 2025.¹

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

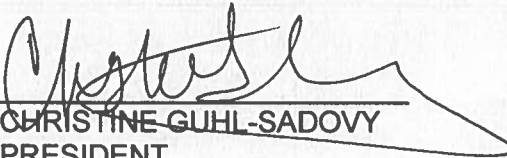
The Board, having carefully reviewed the record in this proceeding, including the Petition, ALJ Miller's Initial Decision, and the attached Stipulation, **HEREBY FINDS** that the Petitioner and PSE&G have voluntarily agreed to the Stipulation, that the Stipulation fully disposes of all issues in this proceeding, and it is consistent with the law. The Board **FURTHER FINDS** that the Initial Decision, which adopts the Stipulation, is in the public interest and in accordance with the law. Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY ADOPTS** the Initial Decision and Stipulation in its entirety, and **HEREBY INCORPORATES** its terms and conditions as though fully set forth herein, subject to any terms and conditions set forth in this Order.

¹ Patrica Cardinale V. Public Service Electric and Gas Company. BPU Docket No. EC24100778; OAL Docket No. PUC 16061-24, Order dated April 23, 2025.

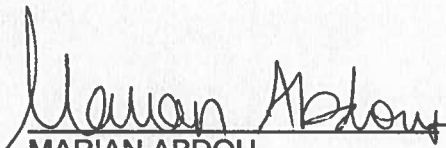
This Order shall be effective on June 25, 2025.

DATED: June 18, 2025

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY
PRESIDENT


DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU
COMMISSIONER


MARIAN ABDOU
COMMISSIONER


MICHAEL BANGE
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: 
SHERRIL GOLDEN
BOARD SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

PATRICIA CARDINALE V. PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

BPU DOCKET NO. EC24100778
OAL DKT NO. PUC 16061-24

SERVICE LIST

Patricia Cardinale



Public Service Electric and Gas Company

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State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION

APPROVING SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 16061-24

AGENCY REF. NO. EC24100778

PATRICIA CARDINALE,

Petitioner,

v.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC &

GAS COMPANY,

Respondent.

Patricia Cardinale, petitioner, *pro se*

Aaron Karp, Esq., for respondent (Public Service Electric & Gas Company)

Jack Ventura, Deputy Attorney General, for respondent (Matthew J. Platkin,
Attorney General of New Jersey, attorney)

Record Closed: March 26, 2025

Decided: March 27, 2025

BEFORE **MATTHEW MILLER**, ALJ:

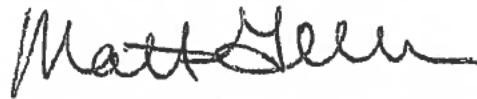
This contested case was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to -15, and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1-1.1 to -21.6. The parties have agreed to settle this case and have entered into an agreement. Having reviewed the

terms of their agreement, I have determined that the settlement is voluntary, consistent with the law, and fully dispositive of all issues in controversy between the parties in this case.

I **ORDER** that the settlement agreement is **APPROVED**, that its terms are **INCORPORATED** into this decision, and that this case is **CONCLUDED**.

I **FILE** my decision with the **SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** for consideration. This recommended decision may be adopted, modified, or rejected by **SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**, who is empowered by law to make a final decision in this case. If the **SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** does not so act within 45 days, and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision becomes a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

March 27, 2025



DATE

MATTHEW MILLER, ALJ

Date Received at Agency:

4/1/25

Date Mailed to Parties:

4/1/25

sej

Danielle Lopez
Associate Counsel - Regulatory

Public Service Electric and Gas Company
80 Park Plaza, T20, Newark, New Jersey 07102-4194
Tel: 973.430.6479
Email: Danielle.Lopez@pseg.com



March 26, 2025

Via UPS Electronic Mail

Honorable Matthew Miller
Office of Administrative Law
33 Washington Street
Newark NJ, 07102
Sharon.Jeffers@oal.nj.gov

**Re: Patricia Cardinale v Public Service Electric and Gas Company Billing
Dispute
OAL Docket No.: PUC 16061-2024N
PU Docket No.: EC24100778**

Dear Judge Miller:

Enclosed please find a fully executed Stipulation of Settlement that resolves all issues in the above referenced matter:

We thank Your Honor for his consideration of this submission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Danielle Lopez", is written over a horizontal line.

Danielle Lopez

Attachment

cc: Patricia Cardinale (via UPS Overnight Delivery)
James Walsh (via email)

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Patricia Cardinale,

Petitioner

V.

Public Service Electric and Gas Company,

Respondent

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OAL Docket No. PUC 16061-2024N

BPU Docket No. EC 24100778

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

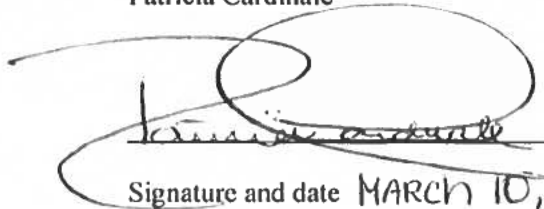
On or about September 23, 2024, Patricia Cardinale ("Petitioner") filed a formal Petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or the "Board") in regard to utility service for her property at [REDACTED], New Jersey. Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("Respondent" or "PSE&G") filed an Answer to this Petition in the above-referenced matter, and the BPU transferred the matter to the Office of Administrative Law as a contested case.

In the interest of resolving this matter amicably and to avoid further delay and costs to the Petitioner and Respondent (collectively the "Parties"), the Parties hereto agree to settle this matter in accordance with the terms and conditions of this agreement as follows:

1. Although not agreeing with the merits of the allegations expressed in the Petition, and expressly denying any liability or wrongdoing, PSE&G agrees to top (i.e., remove all branches down to the height of the secondary wire at the midspan) the two trees in question located on Petitioner's premise. Respondent also agrees to dispose of all branches extracted.
2. Once Petitioner's two trees are topped and branches removed by PSE&G, the Petitioner will resume responsibility for removing and disposing of the remainder of her two trees.

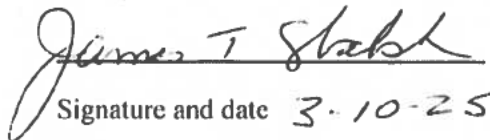
3. Petitioner agrees and understands that no claims or grievances can be later adjudicated relating to the matters referenced in the Petition.
4. The undersigned agree that this Settlement contains mutually balancing and interdependent provisions and is intended to be accepted and approved in its entirety.
5. Within 30 days of the settlement being finalized and the Complaint discharged, PSE&G will schedule the tree trimming work noted in paragraph 1 of this Agreement. The Company reserves the right to reschedule this work in the event circumstances beyond PSE&G's control require rescheduling (i.e. adverse weather or unavailability of police traffic control). Should rescheduling be required, the Company will make its best efforts to reschedule within 30 days of the initial scheduling date.

Patricia Cardinale



Signature and date MARCH 10, 2025

James T. Walsh
PSE&G Customer Operations



Signature and date 3-10-25