

Agenda Date: 07/25/18 Agenda Item: VIID

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

Kumar Ramasubramanian, Petitioner,

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION

New Jersey American Water, Respondent. BPU DOCKET NO. WC17060642U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 17477-17

Parties of Record:

Kumar Ramasubramanian, Petitioner, Pro Se John T. Dillon, Esq., for Respondent

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BY THE BOARD:

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

By petition filed with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") on June 7, 2017 ("Petition"), Kumar Ramasubramanian ("Petitioner") disputed charges associated with service provided by New Jersey American Water ("Respondent", or "NJAW").

In his petition, Mr. Ramasubramanian stated that NJAW incorrectly billed his account in the amount of \$702.08. He further stated that he made a \$123.00 payment towards this disputed amount.

NJAW, in its answer dated July 13, 2017, denied the allegations that Mr. Ramasubramanian was incorrectly billed. The Company contended that services were supplied and billed in accordance with terms and conditions and rate schedules set forth in its Board approved Tariff. NJAW requested that the relief sought be denied on the basis that Mr. Ramasubramanian failed to set forth a claim upon which relief may be granted.

On November 27, 2017, the Board transferred the matter to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 <u>et seq.</u> and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 <u>et seq.</u> The case was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Carl V. Buck, III.

The parties subsequently voluntarily agreed to resolve the matter and entered into a signed Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation") that was submitted to the ALJ on June 18, 2018. Pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, and in order to fully resolve this matter, NJAW agreed

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to credit Mr. Ramasubramanian's account in the amount of \$461.43. Mr. Ramasubramanian will make a payment of \$117.65 in full and final settlement of this matter.

By Initial Decision issued on June 28, 2018, and submitted to the Board on June 29, 2018, ALJ Buck 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.

After review of the Initial Decision and the Stipulation, 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 Stipulation, they have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter. Accordingly, the Board <u>HEREBY</u> <u>ADOPTS</u> 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 August 4, 2018.

DATED: 7/25/18

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO PRESIDENT

MARY-ANNA HOLDEI COMMISSIONER

DIANNE 27 MON COMMISSIONER

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA COMMISSIONER

<u>Land</u>

ROBERT M. GORDON COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH

SECRETARY

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

KUMAR RAMASUBRAMANIAN

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NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER BPU DOCKET NO. WC17060642U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 17477-17

SERVICE LIST

Kumar Ramasubramanian 48 Franklin Drive Belle Mead, NJ 08502

Eric Hartsfield, Director Julie Ford-Williams, Chief Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

Emma Yao Xiao, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45029 Newark, NJ 07101

John T. Dillon New Jersey American Water 167 John F. Kennedy Parkway Short Hills, NJ 07078



State of New Jersey OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

RECEIVED CASE MANAGEM

JUN 292018

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TRENTON, NJ

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO, PUC 17477-17 AGENCY DKT, NO. WC 17060642U

KUMAR RAMASUBRAMANIAN,

Petitioner,

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NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER,

Respondent.

Kumar Ramasubramanian, petitioner, pro se	Cms K-Grahan
John T. Dillon, Esq., for respondent	D. Thomas E. Hartsfiels
Record Closed: June 18, 2018 Decided: June 28, 2018	J. Ford R. Lombert R. Maitos
BEFORE CARL V. BUCK, III, ALJ:	K. Flynn D. Brantley
STATEMENT OF THE CASE AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY	B. Agee C. Vachier

STATEMENT OF THE CASE AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on November 28, 2017, for determination 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.

Jun. 29. 2018 11:32AM

OAL DKT, NO. PUC 17477-17

On June 18, 2018; the parties filed a fully executed Settlement Agreement and the record closed on that date. 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 and/or their representatives' signatures.

No. 0560

P. 2/5

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 N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

CARL V. BUCK, III, ALJ

6-24-18

<u>June 28, 2018</u> DATE

Date Received at Agency:

Date Mailed to Parties:

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ZOIN JUN 18 P 1:23 STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF ADMINICARY

June 14, 2018

Via Regular Mail

Hon. Carl Buck, III, ALJ Office of Administrative Law P.O. Box 049 Trenton, NJ 08625 0049

Re: Ramasubramanian v. New Jersey American Water Company BPU Docket No. WC17060642U PUC 17477-2017 S

Dear Judge Buck:

Enclosed is the signed settlement agreement memorializing what was discussed and agreed to upon on the record before Your Honor on May 31, 2018 with regard to the above-captioned matter. If this settlement meets with Your Honor's approval, the Parties respectfully request that Your Honor issue an Initial Decision, Settlement, accepting the terms and conditions of this settlement agreement, to be transmitted to the Board of Public Utilities (the "Board") for the Board's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

ohn/T. Dillon

Corporate Counsel

JTD:dlc -Enc.

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Kumar Ramasubramanian (via regular mail, w/enc.)

John T. Dillon Corporate Counsel 167 John F. Kennedy Parkway Short Hills, NJ 07078 P 973.564.5753 F 973.564.5708

Ramasubramanian v. New Jersey American Water Company

BPU Docket No. WC17060642U

Settlement Agreement

This Settlement Agreement is made by and between NEW JERSEY-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC. ("NJAW"), a corporation doing business at 1025 Laurol Oak Road, Voorhees, New Jersey 08043 and Kumar Ramasubramanian, a NJAW customer of the premises located at 48 Franklin Drive Montgomery, NJ 08502, and having NJAW Account Number **Customere** 0273 ("Customer") (NJAW and Customer are collectively hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Parties"). In consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions and terms contained herein, the Parties to this Settlement Agreement agree to be legally bound hereby as follows:

- The Parties agree that NJAW will issue a credit to the account of the Customer in the amount of \$461.43 and the Customer will make a payment to the account of \$117.65 in full and final settlement of the billing dispute in this matter.
- Customer agrees to dismiss his complaint filed against NJAW under BPU Docket No. WC17060642U, with projudice.
- 3. This Settlement Agreement shall be governed by, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. In the event that any provision of this Settlement Agreement is deemed unenforceable, those portions not deemed unenforceable shall remain in full force and effect.
- 4. Any modification of this Settlement Agreement, or additional obligation(s) assumed by either party in connection with this Settlement Agreement, shall be binding only if evidenced in writing and signed by each party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties understand and agroe to the terms of this Settlement Agreement and have duly executed this Settlement Agreement on this -14 day of June, 2018. The parties acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is entered into voluntarily and that no representation or inducement has been offered or made, except as contained herein. Customer further acknowledges that he has fully reviewed this Settlement and understands its contents.

DATE:

06/09/2018

Kumar Ramasubramanian 10 (T Ó ः रा New Jersey-American Water (È EU By: t, Dillon John

DATE:

6/14/2018