

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

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Andrea Rivers vs. Philadelphia :
Gas Works. Billing dispute. : Docket No.
Initial telephonic hearing. : C-20065747
Telephonic Call of the Docket. :
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Pages 1 through 8

Hearing Room #2
Pittsburgh State Office Bldg.
300 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Met, pursuant to notice, at 1:00 p.m.

BEFORE:

Larry Gesoff, Administrative Law Judge

APPEARANCES:

DOCKETED
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Andrea Rivers (pro se)
1802 S. 22nd Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19145

Andrew C. Dasent, Esq.
800 W. Montgomery Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122
(For Philadelphia Gas Works)

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SECRETARY'S BUREAU

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Commonwealth Reporting Company, Inc.
700 Lisburn Road
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011

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INDEX TO WITNESSES

WITNESSES	DIRECT	CROSS	REDIRECT	RECROSS
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(No witnesses were called.)

1 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LARRY GESOFF: This
2 is the date set by the Pennsylvania Public Utility
3 Commission for an official hearing by telephone on the
4 Complaint of Andrea Rivers against Philadelphia Gas
5 Works, which is at Docket C-20065747.

6 I am Larry Gesoff, administrative law judge
7 assigned by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
8 to render a decision in this case.

9 I note the appearance of Andrea Rivers on behalf
10 of herself and Andrew Dasent on behalf of Phillips Gas
11 Works.

12 Actually, it is probably 15 minutes after the
13 hearing was scheduled to begin, but I had trouble
14 reaching Mr. Dasent because he was not at the number
15 listed on the notice, for some reason.

16 Mr. Dasent, have you or any members of the company
17 discussed settlement with Miss Rivers?

18 MR. DASENT: We had contact with Miss Rivers
19 previously, but nothing today, as I understood.

20 MS. RIVERS: They did it.

21 JUDGE GESOFF: Someone contacted you today,
22 Miss Rivers?

23 MS. RIVERS: Not today. And they offered me
24 a settlement.

25 JUDGE GESOFF: You don't have to tell me what

1 it is. I want to know if the parties want to -- the
2 Commission has a policy of encouraging the parties to
3 settle matters themselves where possible. It saves
4 time and expense of fully litigating the matter and
5 allows the parties to actually dictate or say what the
6 outcome of the case would be, rather than leaving it to
7 me and ultimately to the Commission. What I usually do
8 is go off the record, which means the court reporter,
9 who is taking down what is being said, will stop doing
10 so, and I will give you a chance to talk to Mr. Dasent
11 and any company witnesses that he might have with him.
12 If you reach a settlement, that is fine. If not, we
13 will go back on the record and I will take your
14 testimony and the company's testimony, and eventually
15 write a decision.

16 MS. RIVERS: Okay.

17 MR. DASENT: We will be happy to take that
18 opportunity, Your Honor.

19 JUDGE GESOFF: All right. We are off the
20 record and you may go ahead and have a discussion.

21 JUDGE GESOFF: Back on the record. The
22 parties have been discussing settlement for, I guess,
23 about 18 minutes, and they have reached one.

24 Mr. Dasent, I think we can probably do a
25 withdrawal on the record based on the settlement,

1 rather than a Certificate of Satisfaction, if that is
2 all right with you.

3 MR. DASENT: That is fine.

4 JUDGE GESOFF: I can explain that in a
5 second. Do you want to explain the settlement on the
6 record or are you satisfied to say that you have
7 reached one and have a withdrawal?

8 MR. DASENT: I believe it is okay to say we
9 have a settlement and do a withdrawal. We know what we
10 have to do and the parties are willing to work
11 together to make this work.

12 JUDGE GESOFF: Miss Rivers, what we have been
13 talking about is the way we end the case, as far as the
14 Commission's records are concerned, what it involves is
15 since you have reached a settlement with the company,
16 you can simply withdraw your complaint by saying that
17 you do so on the record, and then in two or three
18 months -- you would think it would take less time than
19 that -- you will get a one-sentence letter from the
20 Commission saying that the case is closed. So you
21 have reached a settlement with the company; is that
22 correct, Miss Rivers?

23 MS. RIVERS: Yes, I have.

24 JUDGE GESOFF: Do you agree, based on the
25 complaint, to withdraw your complaint?

1 MS. RIVERS: Yes, I do.

2 JUDGE GESOFF: Mr. Dasent said it is
3 a little involved with the crisis grant and the other
4 thing, but work with the company and they will work
5 with you, and hopefully that will resolve it. I
6 believe that part of the settlement might be that -- I
7 am not sure what PGW calls it, but it is a customer
8 assistance program that they have, and just so you know
9 -- you might not be aware of this -- the rate you pay
10 or the money you pay each month on a customer
11 assistance program is absolutely the best and lowest
12 monthly rate you will ever have.

13 MS. RIVERS: Thank you. I appreciate it.

14 JUDGE GESOFF: When you get on this program,
15 make sure that you do everything that you can to pay it
16 each month, because if you don't, then the whole thing
17 disappears and we don't want to have you come again.
18 Wonderful. I thank everyone for your cooperation.

19 MS. RIVERS: Thank you.

20 JUDGE GESOFF: You are welcome. The hearing
21 is concluded. Have a good day.

22 (Whereupon, at 3:00 o'clock p.m., the hearing was
23 concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter that the foregoing proceedings were taken stehographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

COMMONWEALTH REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

BY: Anne V. Thompson
Anne V. Thompson