

ORIGINAL

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Jemill Bantum v. Philadelphia :
Gas Works, Billing dispute. :
: Docket No.
: C-20065733
Initial telephonic hearing :

DOCUMENT
FOLDER

Pages 1 through 9 Hearing Room 2
300 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Tuesday, May 2nd, 2006

Met, pursuant to notice, at 10:00 a.m.

BEFORE:
JOHN H. CORBETT, JR., Administrative Law Judge

APPEARANCES:
JEMILL BANTUM (via telephone)
7027 Limekiln Pike
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19138
(Pro se)

ANDRE C. DASENT, Esquire
(via telephone)
800 West Montgomery Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122
(For the Respondent)

J.M.

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WITNESS INDEX

WITNESSES	DIRECT	CROSS	REDIRECT	RECROSS
(None)				

EXHIBIT INDEX

NUMBER	FOR IDENTIFICATION	IN EVIDENCE
(None)		

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P R O C E E D I N G S

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE JOHN H.

CORBETT, JR.: This is the time and place scheduled for a telephonic hearing on the complaint of Jemill Bantum versus Philadelphia Gas Works.

This complaint was docketed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission at No. C-20065733.

I'm Administrative Law Judge John Corbett. I have been appointed to hear this case and to render an initial decision.

I should note for the benefit of the parties and for the record that I'm sitting in Pittsburgh with a Court Reporter. The Court Reporter is taking down stenographically everything that we say while we are on the record. But she is also running a tape recorder back up. So I would alert the parties to the fact that everything that we say while we are on the record is being tape recorded.

I would ask the parties to get as close to the speaker on the phone as they can. Speak up loudly and clearly and try to let only one party at a time talk. That way we'll get a clear record of what transpires here this morning.

If on the other hand, you don't hear something

1 that is said, please feel free to interrupt and ask
2 me to have the party repeat whatever was said that
3 you missed.

4 With those preliminary remarks out of the way,
5 we'll turn to the matter at hand. Ms. Bantum, I
6 have read your complaint and the answer filed by
7 Philadelphia Gas Works.

8 Usually, what I do before we begin to hear a
9 case like this is I ask the parties if they would
10 like to take a few minutes to discuss this matter
11 between themselves, to see if the two sides can
12 possibly come together to reach some kind of a
13 settlement or resolution of the matters in dispute.

14 Ms. Bantum, would you like to do that at this
15 time?

16 MR. DASENT: That's agreeable, Your
17 honor.

18 MS. BANTUM: That's agreeable.

19 JUDGE CORBETT: I will leave the
20 hearing room in a minute. The two parties can
21 discuss this matter between themselves.

22 The Commission encourages settlement
23 particularly in cases like this. I personally
24 believe it is better for the parties to try to
25 resolve the matter like this among themselves

1 rather than have me hear the case and then later
2 write a decision that may be unsatisfactory to
3 everyone. So I encourage you to try to settle this
4 case if at all possible.

5 I'm going to leave the hearing room in a
6 minute. The Court Reporter will remain here in the
7 hearing room to monitor the telephone equipment.
8 When you're ready for me to return, just let the
9 Court Reporter know.

10 At this point it is now approximately five
11 minutes after nine and we'll take a short recess.

12 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

13 JUDGE CORBETT: This is Judge Corbett.
14 We're back on the record. It's now approximately
15 nine thirty-five. Have the parties been able to
16 resolve this matter?

17 MR. DASENT: Yes.

18 JUDGE CORBETT: Mr. Dasent, would you
19 do the honors and just summarize for us what the
20 terms of the settlement are?

21 MR. DASENT: The terms of the
22 settlement are that the customer will apply for the
23 CRP program. In turn, I or PGW -- I will
24 communicate with PGW senior management concerning
25 problems associated with this file which revolve

1 around miscommunications so that the problems or
2 circumstances hopefully can be avoided in the
3 future for other customers.

4 JUDGE CORBETT: All right. Ms. Bantum,
5 you've heard the terms of the settlement as
6 proposed by Mr. Dasent. Do you have any questions
7 or comments with regard to those terms?

8 MS. BANTUM: No. I will agree as he
9 stated that he will send out letters in reference
10 to once I go into the office to apply for the
11 program about what we discussed on the line.

12 JUDGE CORBETT: Okay. Do you
13 understand fully the terms of the settlement?

14 MS. BANTUM: Yes, I do.

15 JUDGE CORBETT: Do you understand that
16 if you fail to abide by the terms of the settlement
17 that PGW will then have the right and the
18 opportunity to either suspend or terminate your
19 service?

20 MS. BANTUM: Yes, I do.

21 JUDGE CORBETT: Do you agree to be
22 bound by the terms of this settlement?

23 MS. BANTUM: Yes, I do.

24 JUDGE CORBETT: Do you now wish to
25 withdraw your complaint based upon the settlement?

1 MS. BANTUM: Yes. I will withdraw my
 2 complaint after I go into the office if that is
 3 reasonable and fill out what I need to do to get on
 4 the program and also when he returns the letters
 5 that he promised me in reference to what we
 6 discussed on the phone.

7 JUDGE CORBETT: Well we want to resolve
 8 this this morning if we can. So at this point I'm
 9 going to ask you, you know, I don't want to keep
 10 this up in the air because it comes up on my list
 11 and I'm going to get a call from my bosses in
 12 Harrisburg wanting to know why this case hasn't
 13 been closed out. So I need to know this morning
 14 that this is satisfactory to you and that you are
 15 willing to abide by the terms of the settlement.

16 MS. BANTUM: Yes. I will abide by the
 17 terms of the settlement. I believe his word is
 18 fine and what he says he will do and what Wendy
 19 said for the CRP program and how it works, it will
 20 happen. By God, will and trust I will go with it,
 21 yes, I will.

22 JUDGE CORBETT: So we'll accept the
 23 settlement of the parties. Mr. Dasent, would you
 24 be kind enough, sir, to prepare a letter of
 25 satisfaction and fax it to me?

1 MR. DASENT: Yes, I will.

2 JUDGE CORBETT: I believe you have my
3 fax number but let me give it to you anyway. It's
4 (412) 565-5692. As soon as I receive that, what I
5 will do is I will then send a memo to Harrisburg so
6 that the schedulers in the office in Harrisburg
7 know that the case has been settled. You may
8 receive a notice shortly after that that unless
9 either party objects, the record will then close
10 within ten days. Any final comments or questions,
11 Mr. Dasent?

12 MR. DASENT: No.

13 JUDGE CORBETT: Ms. Bantum, do you have
14 any final questions or comments to make before we
15 adjourn?

16 MS. BANTUM: No, not at this time.

17 JUDGE CORBETT: I thank the parties for
18 their participation and cooperation. It's always
19 best that the parties resolve matters like this
20 among themselves. I'm glad you were able to do
21 that. I appreciate the patience and cooperation of
22 both parties this morning. The hearing is now
23 adjourned.

24 (Whereupon, at 9:48 a.m. the
25 hearing was adjourned.)

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I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by, 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.

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