

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

St. Augustine Inn Middlesex Diner	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2024-3047661
	:	
Hudson Energy Services, LLC	:	

**INTERIM ORDER
GRANTING RESPONDENT’S REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE**

On March 4, 2024, St. Augustine Inn Middlesex Diner (“Complainant”) filed a Formal Complaint with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) against Hudson Energy Services (“Respondent”) alleging that there were incorrect charges on its bill. Included as attachments to the Complaint were several bills issued by Respondent to Complainant. The Commission served the Complaint on Respondent on March 20, 2024. Respondent did not file an Answer to the Complaint within 20 days. 52 Pa. Code § 5.61(a)

On May 15, 2024, the Commission issued a Hearing Notice, scheduling this matter for an evidentiary hearing on July 2, 2024, and formally assigned the undersigned as Presiding Officer.

On May 24, 2024, Respondent filed a Petition for Extension of Time to file an Answer to the Complaint. The Petition was addressed to the Commission’s Secretary. In its Petition, counsel for Respondent indicated that it was only recently retained and requested additional time to file an Answer to the Complaint.

On May 30, 2024, the Commission’s Secretary granted Respondent’s Petition, advising Respondent that it had until June 12, 2024, to file any responsive pleadings to the Complaint.

On June 6, 2024, Respondent filed a Request for Continuance of Hearing. Respondent requested a continuance of the hearing in order for it to complete its investigation of this matter and to attempt informal resolution of this matter. Respondent submitted that the extension of time granted by the Secretary and the opportunity for resolution of this matter without litigation constitutes good cause for continuance of the hearing.

The Commission's regulations provide that continuances will be considered only upon "good cause" shown. 52 Pa. Code § 1.15(b). In light of the fact that Respondent only recently retained counsel and received an extension of time until June 12, 2024, to file an Answer to the Complaint, good cause has been shown to continue the hearing. Further, Respondent's insistence that it will attempt to use the additional time provided by a continuance to resolve the Complaint also serves as good cause to continue the hearing, as the Commission encourages settlements, and the results of any settlement are likely to be more preferable to the parties than the results of any fully litigated proceeding. Further, resolution of this matter without an evidentiary hearing would save the Commission and the parties the time and resources that would be spent fully litigating this proceeding.

For the above reasons, Respondent's Request for Continuance will formally be granted in the Ordering paragraphs below.

C-2024-3047661 - ST AUGUSTINE INN MIDDLESEX DINER v. HUDSON ENERGY SERVICES LLC

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