

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of Michelle DeMasi,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 15-1443-EL-CSS
)	
Ohio Edison Company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ENTRY

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) On August 17, 2015, Michelle DeMasi (Ms. DeMasi or Complainant) filed a complaint against Ohio Edison Company (Ohio Edison), alleging that her bills are excessively high. Complainant contends that she is being billed for electricity used by a neighbor.
- (2) Ohio Edison filed an answer on September 8, 2015. Ohio Edison denies that its meter is inaccurate and that it has billed Complainant incorrectly. Ohio Edison adds that Complainant has not made a payment since August 2014, nor has she paid current amounts due on her account.
- (3) On September 25, 2015, the attorney examiner issued an Entry ordering that, while the complaint is pending, Complainant must pay all amounts not in dispute for usage that occurred before the filing of the complaint. In addition, Mr. DeMasi was ordered to pay in full bills for electric usage occurring after August 17, 2015, when the complaint was filed. The attorney examiner added that if Complainant fails to pay, Ohio Edison may begin termination procedures. Finally, the Entry scheduled a settlement conference for October 29, 2015, at the Commission offices in Columbus.
- (4) On October 21, 2015, Complainant filed a motion to continue the October 29, 2015 conference for several reasons. First, Ms. DeMasi requests that FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. (FES)

be joined as a party to the complaint, because FES was her utility provider from August 2010 until August 2014. Ms. DeMasi asserts that she “is disputing charges from both utility companies.” Complainant adds that if the conference is not continued, she can participate in a teleconference, as she currently has no vehicle, and could not arrive in Columbus in timely manner via bus. Finally, Complainant requests that the Commission prevent interruption of her electric service while the complaint is pending.

- (5) On October 21, 2015, Ohio Edison filed a memorandum contra the motion to continue. Ohio Edison asserts that Complainant has not complied with the directive in the attorney examiner’s September 25, 2015 Entry to pay in full bills for electric usage that occurred after August 17, 2015, when the complaint was filed. Specifically, Ohio Edison contends, Complainant did not pay her bill issued on August 31, 2015, in the amount of \$188.27, or her most current bill of \$17.84.

In addition, Ohio Edison states, Complainant “consistently thwarts Ohio Edison’s ability to read her meter” and confirm that she is connected to the correct home, because her pit bull is outdoors and near the meter, endangering Ohio Edison employees. Ohio Edison adds, however, that it recently visited the property of Ms. DeMasi’s neighbor and verified that the neighbor’s meter is measuring electricity only to the neighbor’s home. In sum, argues Ohio Edison, there is no merit to Complainant’s allegations that she is being charged for electricity that her neighbor consumes.

- (6) The attorney examiner recognizes that FES must, before a settlement conference takes place, have the opportunity to respond to Complainant’s request to have FES joined as a party. Therefore, the October 29, 2015 settlement conference shall be continued to a date that will be indicated in a future Entry. Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-12, FES has 15 days from the date of being served with Complainant’s October 21, 2015 motion to file a memorandum contra. In the event that FES is ultimately joined as a party, it shall have, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-9-01, 20 days from the date of being served with the Entry indicating joinder to file an answer to the complaint.

- (7) The attorney examiner again emphasizes that, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-9-01(E), while the complaint is pending, Complainant must pay all amounts not in dispute for usage that occurred before August 17, 2015, when the complaint was filed. In addition, Complainant must pay in full bills for electric usage that occurred after August 17, 2015. If Complainant fails to make such payments, Ohio Edison may begin termination procedures.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That Complainant pay, while the complaint is pending, all amounts for usage before August 17, 2015, that are not in dispute, and pay in full current bills for electric usage after August 17, 2015. It is, further,

ORDERED, That the October 29, 2015, settlement conference be continued to a date that will be indicated in a future Entry. It is, further,

ORDERED, That FES file a memorandum contra no later than 15 days after being served with Complainant's October 21, 2015 motion to continue. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

By: James M. Lynn
Attorney Examiner

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in

Case No(s). 15-1443-EL-CSS

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry directing Complainant to make payments in accordance with Finding (7), directing that FES file a memorandum contra no later than 15 days after being served with Complainant's 10/21/2015 motion to continue, and continuing the settlement conference to a date indicated in a future Entry, electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of James Lynn, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio