

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF LEONA ORESKOVIC,

COMPLAINANT,

v.

CASE NO. 20-1311-EL-CSS

OHIO EDISON COMPANY,

RESPONDENT.

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on September 10, 2020

{¶ 1} Pursuant to R.C. 4905.26, the Commission has authority to consider written complaints filed against a public utility by any person or corporation regarding any rate, service, regulation, or practice relating to any service furnished by the public utility that is in any respect unjust, unreasonable, insufficient, or unjustly discriminatory.

{¶ 2} Ohio Edison Company (OEC) is a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02 and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 3} On July 24, 2020, as amended on August 12, 2020, Leona Oreskovic (Ms. Oreskovic or Complainant) filed a complaint against Ohio Edison Company (OEC), stating that OEC is incorrectly billing her for \$1,000 in arrears. According to Complainant, OEC asserts that her meter was read incorrectly from the time that she moved into her condominium, which was 13 years ago. However, Ms. Oreskovic contends that “all was fine until new neighbors moved in and complained that their bill was too high.” Complainant explains that, following the neighbors’ complaint, an OEC technician arrived and “switched connections” from the neighbors’ condominium to hers, after which her bill increased dramatically. Ms. Oreskovic contends that OEC found no problems when the meter was tested, but a new meter was installed anyway. According to Complainant, she requested copies of her bills from January 2019 to February 2020 and she eventually

received a summary statement, but not the actual bills. Complainant adds that she wants proof of how OEC calculated her bill.

{¶ 4} In its August 13, 2020 answer, OEC admits that, upon visiting Complainant's property, OEC "discovered a 'meter mix' relating to Complainant's account." OEC explains that a meter mix occurred when the meter connected to Complainant's residence was incorrectly associated with the neighboring conjoined residence, and vice versa. OEC states that a meter technician corrected the meter mix so that each meter was associated with the correct residence, after which Complainant received a rebilling adjustment for the prior 12 months. OEC denies all other allegations made by Complainant.

{¶ 5} The attorney examiner finds that this matter should be scheduled for a settlement conference. The purpose of the settlement conference will be to explore the parties' willingness to negotiate a resolution in lieu of an evidentiary hearing. In accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-26, any statements made in an attempt to settle this matter without the need for an evidentiary hearing will not generally be admissible to prove liability or invalidity of a claim. An attorney examiner from the Commission's legal department will facilitate the settlement process. However, nothing prohibits any party from initiating settlement negotiations prior to the scheduled settlement conference.

{¶ 6} Accordingly, the settlement conference shall be scheduled for September 17, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The parties are to dial 614-721-2972 and enter conference code 930 550 958# when prompted to participate in the conference. The parties should have available all documents in their possession relevant to this matter.

{¶ 7} If a settlement is not reached at the conference, the attorney examiner will conduct a discussion of procedural issues. Procedural issues for discussion may include discovery dates, possible stipulations of facts, and potential hearing dates.

{¶ 8} Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-26(F), the representatives of the public utility shall investigate the issues raised on the complaint prior to the settlement

conference, and all parties attending the conference shall be prepared to discuss settlement of the issues raised and shall have the authority to settle those issues.

{¶ 9} As is the case in all Commission complaint proceedings, the complainant has the burden of proving the allegations of the complaint. *Grossman v. Pub. Util. Comm.*, 5 Ohio St.2d 189, 214 N.E.2d 666 (1966).

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That a settlement teleconference be scheduled for September 17, 2020, as indicated in Paragraph 6. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/James M. Lynn

By: James M. Lynn
Attorney Examiner

SJP/hac

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Case No(s). 20-1311-EL-CSS

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry scheduling a settlement teleconference for September 17, 2020, electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of James M. Lynn, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission