

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of Jim Snyder,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 14-1133-GA-CSS
)	
The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a)	
Dominion East Ohio,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ENTRY

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) On June 23, 2014, Jim Snyder (Complainant) filed a complaint against The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio (DEO), alleging that his service was incorrectly disconnected on December 10, 2013, without proper notice, and that he had no heat until December 12, 2013. He adds that this occurred when temperatures continued to drop outdoors, and that the inside of his residence was below 40 degrees for several days, causing him discomfort, as well as producing a crack in the living room ceiling. Complainant asserts that he has several letters from DEO stating that he had until March 1, 2014, to accommodate DEO's request for access to their equipment before a potential service shutoff. Mr. Snyder seeks compensation for the damage to his home and the harm to him.
- (2) DEO filed its answer on July 14, 2014. DEO states that it disconnected Complainant's service because of his failure to provide DEO access to perform certain inspections. DEO denies other allegations made in the complaint.
- (3) 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.

- (4) Accordingly, a settlement conference shall be scheduled for August 26, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., at the Commission offices, 180 East Broad Street, 12th floor, Conference Room 1246, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. The parties should bring with them all documents relevant to this matter. 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.
- (5) 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. In addition, parties attending the settlement conference should bring with them all documents relevant to this matter.
- (6) As is the case in all Commission complaint proceedings, the complainant has the burden of proving the allegations of the complaint. *Grossman v. Public Util. Comm.*, 5 Ohio St.2d 189, 214 N.E. 2d 666 (1966).

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That a settlement conference be scheduled for August 26, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., at the Commission offices, 180 East Broad Street, 12th floor, Conference Room 1246, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. It is, further,

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

jrj/vrm

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in

Case No(s). 14-1133-GA-CSS

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry scheduling a settlement conference for August 26, 2014, at 1:00 p.m.; electronically filed by Vesta R Miller on behalf of James M. Lynn, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio