

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF DENISE GIPSON,

COMPLAINANT,

v.

CASE NO. 17-2541-GA-CSS

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.,

RESPONDENT.

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on February 5, 2018

{¶ 1} On January 26, 2018, the attorney examiner issued an Entry scheduling a February 6, 2018 settlement conference in this matter.

{¶ 2} Denise Gipson (Complainant) contacted the attorney examiner on February 5, 2018, requesting that the settlement conference be rescheduled to March 2018, so that she could obtain additional information concerning her complaint.

{¶ 3} Accordingly, the settlement conference shall be rescheduled to March 20, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room 1246 at the Commission offices.

{¶ 4} 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. 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.

{¶ 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).

{¶ 7} It is, therefore,

{¶ 8} ORDERED, That the settlement conference be rescheduled to March 20, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 1246, as indicated in Paragraph 3. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/James Lynn

By: James M. Lynn
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

2/5/2018 3:15:16 PM

in

Case No(s). 17-2541-GA-CSS

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry rescheduling settlement conference to 03/20/2018 at 10:00 a.m. in accordance with Paragraph 3 electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of James Lynn, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio