

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF
JOHN BLANCHARD,**

COMPLAINANT,

CASE NO. 18-82-EL-CSS

v.

THE TOLEDO EDISON COMPANY,

RESPONDENT.

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on February 16, 2018

{¶ 1} The Toledo Edison Company (Toledo Edison) is a public utility, pursuant to R.C. 4905.02, and is, therefore, subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} 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.

{¶ 3} On January 8, 2018, John Blanchard (Complainant) filed a complaint against Toledo Edison alleging that Toledo Edison improperly disconnected electric service for nonpayment without first providing advanced written notice at the premises and did not provide a reasonable opportunity to dispute the disconnection.

{¶ 4} On January 26, 2018, Toledo Edison filed its answer to the complaint, denying many of the allegations contained therein. Additionally, Toledo Edison raised several affirmative defenses, including, but not limited to, the following: Complainant fails to set forth reasonable grounds for complaint as required by R.C. 4905.26; Complainant fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted; and Toledo Edison has complied with all applicable rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission, and its tariffs. Additionally, Toledo Edison requests that the Commission dismiss the complaint.

{¶ 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 of this complaint in lieu of an evidentiary hearing. In accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-26(E), any statement 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 either party from initiating settlement negotiations prior to the scheduled settlement conference.

{¶ 6} Accordingly, a settlement conference shall be scheduled for March 27, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 1246 of the offices of the Commission, 12th Floor, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. If it becomes apparent that the parties are not likely to settle this matter, the parties should be prepared to discuss a procedural schedule to facilitate the timely and efficient processing of this complaint.

{¶ 7} Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-26(F) and 4901-9-01(H), the representatives of the public utility shall investigate the issues raised in 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 requisite authority to settle those issues. In addition, parties attending the settlement conference should bring with them all documents relevant to this matter.

{¶ 8} 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).

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That a settlement conference be scheduled, in accordance with Paragraph 6. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Stacie Cathcart

By: Stacie E. Cathcart
Attorney Examiner

SJP/sc

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Case No(s). 18-0082-EL-CSS

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry scheduling settlement conference for 03/27/2018 in accordance with Paragraph 6 electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Stacie Cathcart, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio