

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF
MICHELLE DIFIORI,**

COMPLAINANT,

v.

CASE NO. 18-1608-EL-CSS

**THE CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING
COMPANY,**

RESPONDENT.

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on December 6, 2018

{¶ 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} Respondent, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI or Company), is a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02 and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 3} On October 25 2018, Michelle Difiori (Complainant) filed a complaint against CEI. The complaint alleges, among other things, that Complainant has received high bills and has been overcharged by CEI for her electric service. Also, Complainant seeks to be reimbursed for costs she incurred checking on the proper functioning of her own appliances.

{¶ 4} On November 14, 2018, CEI filed its answer to the complaint. In its answer, CEI admits some and denies others of the complaint's allegations and sets forth several affirmative defenses. CEI specifically denies that it is overcharging 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, a settlement conference shall be scheduled for January 10, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Commission offices, 180 East Broad Street, 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. All parties should register at the lobby desk and then proceed to the 11th floor in order to participate in the settlement conference.

{¶ 7} 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.

{¶ 8} 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).

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That a settlement conference be scheduled for January 10, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Commission offices, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. 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/Daniel Fullin

By: Daniel E. Fullin
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 18-1608-EL-CSS

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry scheduling settlement conference for 01/10/2019 at 10:00 a.m. in accordance with Paragraph 6 - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Daniel Fullin, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio