

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

**CHRIS WASHINGTON**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 13A-UI-10874-VST**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**TRI CITY ELECTRIC CO OF IOWA**  
Employer

**OC: 07/07/13**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-2-a – Discharge for Misconduct  
871 IAC 26.8(5) – Decision on the Record

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

An appeal was filed from an unemployment insurance decision dated September 20, 2013, reference 04, which concluded that the claimant was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. A hearing was scheduled for October 21, 2013, by telephone conference call. Proper notice of the hearing was given to both parties. The claimant did not respond to the hearing notice. Official notice is taken of the APLT screen, which shows that the claimant did not call in. A copy of the APLT screen is enclosed with the file. The employer was available at all times and consented to a decision on the record. Based on the appellant's failure to participate in the hearing, the administrative file, and the law, the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law and decision are entered.

**ISSUE:**

Whether the claimant voluntarily left for good cause attributable to the employer.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The appellant failed to appear for the hearing and did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice.

A careful review of the information in the administrative file has been conducted to determine whether the unemployment insurance decision should be affirmed.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The unemployment insurance rules provide that when a party who has received due notice is unable to attend a hearing or request postponement within the prescribed time due to emergency or other good cause, the presiding officer may, if no decision has been issued, reopen the record and schedule another hearing. If a decision has been issued, the decision may be vacated upon the presiding officer's own motion or at the request of a party within 15 days after the mailing date of the decision and in the absence of an appeal to the

employment appeal board of the department of inspections and appeals. If a decision is vacated, notice shall be given to all parties of a new hearing to be held and decided by another presiding officer. Once a decision has become final as provided by statute, the presiding officer has no jurisdiction to reopen the record or vacate the decision. 871 IAC 26.8(3). The rules further provide that a request to reopen a record or vacate a decision may be heard ex parte by the presiding officer. The granting or denial of such a request may be used as a grounds for appeal to the employment appeal board of the department of inspections and appeals after the presiding officer has issued a final decision in the case. 871 IAC 26.8(4). Finally, if good cause for postponement or reopening has not been shown, the presiding officer shall make a decision based upon whatever evidence is properly in the record. 871 IAC 26.8(5).

The administrative law judge has carefully reviewed the information in the administrative file in the record and concludes that the unemployment insurance decision previously entered in this case is correct and should be affirmed.

Pursuant to the rule, the appellant must make a written request to the administrative law judge that the hearing be reopened within 15 days after the mailing date of this decision. The written request should be mailed to the administrative law judge at the address listed at the beginning of this decision and must explain the emergency or other good cause that prevented the appellant from participating in the hearing at its scheduled time.

**DECISION:**

The unemployment insurance decision dated September 20, 2013, reference 04, is affirmed. The decision disqualifying the claimant from receiving benefits remains in effect. This decision will become final unless a written request establishing good cause to reopen the record is made to the administrative law judge within 15 days of the date of this decision.

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Vicki L. Seeck  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

vls/css