

**BEFORE THE
EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD
Lucas State Office Building
Fourth floor
Des Moines, Iowa 50319**

FRANCISCO B CORONA BARAJAS

Claimant,

and

**PREFERRED INTERIOR
CONSTRUCTION INC**

Employer.

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HEARING NUMBER: 15B-UI-13141

**EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD
DECISION**

SECTION: 10A.601 Employment Appeal Board Review

D E C I S I O N

FINDINGS OF FACT:

A hearing in the above matter was scheduled for January 20, 2015 in which the issues to be determined were whether the claimant was laid off; discharged for misconduct; or whether the claimant voluntarily left for good cause attributable to the employer.

At the hearing, the Employer indicated that the Claimant left for lunch on February 19, 2015 and did not return, which the Employer believed the Claimant quit. The Claimant mentioned that he worked another job. Yet, the administrative law judge determined that the Claimant was discharged for no disqualifying reason without delving into whether the Claimant quit for other employment. The administrative law judge's decision was issued January 22, 2015, which allowed benefits. The administrative law judge's decision has been appealed to the Employment Appeal Board.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 10A.601(4) (2011) provides:

5. Appeal board review. The appeal board may on its own motion affirm, modify, or set aside any decision of an administrative law judge on the basis of the evidence previously submitted in such case, or direct the taking of additional evidence, or may permit any of the parties to such decision to initiate further appeals before it. The appeal board shall permit such further appeal by any of the parties interested in a decision of an administrative law judge and by the representative whose decision has been overruled or modified by the administrative law judge. The appeal board shall review the case pursuant to rules adopted by the appeal board. The appeal board shall promptly notify the interested parties of its findings and decision.

The Employment Appeal Board concludes that the record as it stands is insufficient for the Board to issue a decision on the merits of the case. As the Iowa Court of Appeals noted in *Baker v. Employment Appeal Board*, 551 N.W. 2d 646 (Iowa App. 1996), the administrative law judge has a heightened duty to develop the record from available evidence and testimony given the administrative law judge's presumed expertise. The record shows that it was the Claimant who initiated the separation (voluntary quit), but no evidence was adduced as to the whether he quit for other employment. For this reason, the Board must remand this matter for the taking of additional evidence to determine if the Claimant left his employment for other or better employment within the meaning of Iowa law. See, Iowa Code section 96.5(1)"a"; see also, 871 IAC 24.28(5)"b".

DECISION:

The decision of the administrative law judge dated January 22, 2015 is not vacated. This matter is remanded to an administrative law judge in the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau, for further development of the record consistent with this decision, unless otherwise already addressed. The administrative law judge shall conduct a hearing following due notice, if necessary. If a hearing is held, then the administrative law judge shall issue a decision which provides the parties appeal rights.

Kim D. Schmett

Ashley R. Koopmans

James M. Strohman

AMG/fnv