

following **MODIFICATION**:

The Employment Appeal Board would modify the Reasoning and Conclusions of Law to reflect that the agency entered a default ruling for which it had no authority. 871 IAC 26.14(9) provides, in relevant part, that "... a party's failure to participate in a contested case hearing *shall not* result in a decision automatically being entered against it."

John A. Peno

Elizabeth L. Seiser

Monique F. Kuester

AMG/ss