

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

CHANTELLE M SMITH
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 08A-UI-00400-MT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

CATFISH BEND CASINOS II LLC
CATFISH BEND CASINO
Employer

OC: 01/06/08 R: 04
Claimant: Respondent (1)

Section 96.3-5 – Duration of Benefits (Employer Going Out of Business/Re-computation of Wage Credits)

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Employer filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated January 11, 2008, reference 02, which held claimant eligible for business closing benefits pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.3-5 insurance benefits. After due notice, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled for and held on January 29, 2008. Claimant participated personally. Employer participated by Steve Morley, Director of Human Resources.

ISSUE:

The issue presented in this appeal is whether the claimant was laid off due to the employer going out of business and, therefore, is entitled to have the wage credits re-computed.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant was laid off by employer on November 15, 2007 because employer was closing its river boat casino in Fort Madison location and moving to a land-based casino in Burlington. Employer ceased doing business in Fort Madison as of November 15, 2007.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge holds that the claimant was laid off as a result of the employer going out of business in Fort Madison and, therefore, is entitled to a re-computation of wage credits.

Iowa Code section 96.3-5 provides:

5. Duration of benefits. The maximum total amount of benefits payable to an eligible individual during a benefit year shall not exceed the total of the wage credits accrued to the individual's account during the individual's base period, or twenty-six times the

individual's weekly benefit amount, whichever is the lesser. The director shall maintain a separate account for each individual who earns wages in insured work. The director shall compute wage credits for each individual by crediting the individual's account with one-third of the wages for insured work paid to the individual during the individual's base period. However, the director shall recompute wage credits for an individual who is laid off due to the individual's employer going out of business at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual was last employed, by crediting the individual's account with one-half, instead of one-third, of the wages for insured work paid to the individual during the individual's base period. Benefits paid to an eligible individual shall be charged against the base period wage credits in the individual's account which have not been previously charged, in the inverse chronological order as the wages on which the wage credits are based were paid. However if the state "off indicator" is in effect and if the individual is laid off due to the individual's employer going out of business at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual was last employed, the maximum benefits payable shall be extended to thirty-nine times the individual's weekly benefit amount, but not to exceed the total of the wage credits accrued to the individual's account.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated January 11, 2008, reference 02 is affirmed. The claimant is entitled to have the unemployment insurance claim re-determined as a business closing, including a re-computation of wage credits. The claimant's request for such re-determination and re-computation is granted.

Marlon Mormann
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

mdm/kjw