

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**CHERYLL RITCHIE**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO: 15A-UI-04049-ET**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**SG&E INC**  
Employer

**OC: 03/01/15**  
**Claimant: Respondent (2-R)**

Section 96.6-2 - Timeliness of Protest

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The employer appealed from the March 23, 2015, reference 02, decision that concluded it failed to file a timely protest regarding the claimant's separation of employment on April 1, 2015, and no disqualification of unemployment insurance benefits was imposed. A hearing was scheduled and held on May 8, 2015, pursuant to due notice. The claimant did not respond to the hearing notice and did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice. Sue Emich, Owner, participated in the hearing on behalf of the employer. Department's Exhibit D-1 was admitted to the record.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant's notice of claim was mailed to the employer's address of record on March 5, 2015. The protest was due March 16, 2015. The employer filed its protest on March 19, 2015. The employer was out of town due to a family emergency from March 4 through the evening of March 18, 2015. It filed its protest March 19, 2015. There are issues regarding the claimant's separation from this employer that have not yet been investigated or adjudicated at the claims level.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code § 96.6-2 provides in pertinent part:

2. Initial determination. A representative designated by the director shall promptly notify all interested parties to the claim of its filing, and the parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of the filing of the claim by ordinary mail to the last known address to protest payment of benefits to the claimant.

The administrative law judge concludes that the employer filed its protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law because it was out of town when the notice of claim was mailed and did not return until the evening of March 18, 2015. The employer filed its

protest March 19, 2015. Under these circumstances, the administrative law judge concludes the employer's appeal is timely. The issue of the claimant's separation from this employer is remanded to the Claims Section of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and determination.

**DECISION:**

The March 23, 2015, reference 02, decision is reversed. The employer has filed a timely protest. The issue of the claimant's separation from this employer is remanded to the Claims Section of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and determination.

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Julie Elder  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

je/pjs