

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF MOHAMMAD RIAZ,
NOTICE OF APPARENT VIOLATION AND
INTENT TO ASSESS FORFEITURE.

CASE NO. 20-362-TR-CVF
(OH3246011538D)

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on July 24, 2020

{¶ 1} On March 2, 2020, the attorney examiner scheduled this matter for hearing on May 12, 2020.

{¶ 2} On March 9, 2020, the governor signed Executive Order 2020-01D (Executive Order), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. As described in the Executive Order, state agencies are required to implement procedures consistent with recommendations from the Department of Health to prevent or alleviate the public health threat associated with COVID-19. Additionally, all citizens are urged to heed the advice of the Department of Health regarding this public health emergency in order to protect their health and safety.

{¶ 3} As a result of the Executive Order, beginning March 13, 2020, the Commission reduced on-site staffing and most employees began working from home to reduce exposure to COVID-19.

{¶ 4} On April 15 and June 8, 2020, due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the attorney examiner rescheduled the evidentiary hearing to June 16 and August 11, 2020, respectively.

{¶ 5} Due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the attorney examiner reschedules the hearing for October 29, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. The hearing will occur using remote access technology. Additional details and instructions regarding remote access to the evidentiary hearing will be provided to the parties within a reasonable time period prior to the hearing.

{¶ 6} The attorney examiner reaffirms that Respondent requires an interpreter versed in speaking Punjabi (Pakistani, not Indian) in order to adequately communicate in this case. This determination is based on information provided by Respondent's daughter, who participated in the prehearing conference. Based on this representation, the Commission shall arrange for the required interpreter at the remote access evidentiary hearing.

{¶ 7} At the evidentiary hearing, Staff must prove that Respondent committed the violations alleged in the notice of preliminary determination (NPD) by a preponderance of the evidence. Ohio Adm.Code 4901:2-7-20. Following Staff's presentation of the evidence, Respondent will have the opportunity to present testimony and other evidence supporting Respondent's contentions regarding the alleged violations.

{¶ 8} Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:2-7-14, a respondent who has requested an administrative hearing and fails to appear for the evidentiary hearing shall be in default. A respondent in default shall be deemed to have admitted the occurrence of the violations charged and to have waived all further right to contest liability for the forfeiture proposed in the NPD.

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Case No. 20-362-TR-CVF be rescheduled for hearing as set forth in Paragraph 5. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Michael L. Williams

By: Michael L. Williams
Attorney Examiner

SJP/hac

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Case No(s). 20-0362-TR-CVF

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry rescheduling hearing electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Michael L. Williams, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio