U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of LAWRENCE M. LACOMB <u>and</u> U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, POST OFFICE, Albany, N.Y.

Docket No. 97-1780; Submitted on the Record; Issued March 3, 1999

DECISION and **ORDER**

Before GEORGE E. RIVERS, DAVID S. GERSON, A. PETER KANJORSKI

The issue is whether appellant has met his burden of proof in establishing that he sustained an aggravation of his psoriasis and psoriatic joint arthritis in the performance of duty as alleged.

The Board has given careful consideration to the issue involved, the contentions of appellant on appeal and the entire case record. The Board finds that the decision of the hearing representative of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated and made final on July 18, 1996 is in accordance with the facts and the law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the Office hearing representative.

The decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated July 18, 1996 is affirmed.

Dated, Washington, D.C. March 3, 1999

> George E. Rivers Member

David S. Gerson Member

A. Peter Kanjorski Alternate Member