U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of RICHARD D. SPARKS <u>and DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY</u>, UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE, Laredo, TX

Docket No. 98-196; Submitted on the Record; Issued September 24, 1999

DECISION and **ORDER**

Before GEORGE E. RIVERS, DAVID S. GERSON, WILLIE T.C. THOMAS

The issue is whether appellant has met his burden of proof to establish that his medical conditions are causally related to his chemical exposure on October 8, 1993.

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 August 29, 1997 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 August 29, 1997 is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, D.C. September 24, 1999

> George E. Rivers Member

David S. Gerson Member

Willie T.C. Thomas Alternate Member