## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

## Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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In the Matter of ROGER V. HART <u>and</u> DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, Bethesda, Md.

Docket No. 96-1705; Submitted on the Record; Issued May 8, 1998

## **DECISION** and **ORDER**

## Before GEORGE E. RIVERS, DAVID S. GERSON, MICHAEL E. GROOM

The issue is whether appellant has established that he sustained a recurrence of disability commencing on or after May 16, 1994, causally related to his accepted March 4, 1988 soft tissue lumbosacral muscular strain injury.

The Board finds that the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs hearing representative's decision dated February 6, 1996, is in accordance with the law, facts and circumstances of the case and hereby adopts the hearing representative's findings and conclusions.<sup>1</sup>

Accordingly, the decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated February 6, 1996 is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, D.C. May 8, 1998

> George E. Rivers Member

David S. Gerson Member

Michael E. Groom Alternate Member

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The hearing representative concluded that appellant's bony anomalies and related symptomatology and pathologies, and his neurological problems as of 1994, were not demonstrated to be causally related to his accepted soft tissue muscular strain injury six years earlier.