U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of ROBERT L. TUELLER <u>and</u> U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, POST OFFICE, Salt Lake City, Utah

Docket No. 97-1625; Submitted on the Record; Issued February 3, 1999

DECISION and ORDER

Before GEORGE E. RIVERS, WILLIE T.C. THOMAS, BRADLEY T. KNOTT

The issue is whether appellant met his burden of proof to establish that he sustained a recurrence of disability on or after April 4, 1996 due to his December 20, 1994 employment injury.

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 finalized February 14, 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 decisions of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated and finalized February 14, 1997 and dated July 10, 1996 are affirmed.

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

George E. Rivers Member

Willie T.C. Thomas Alternate Member

Bradley T. Knott Alternate Member