U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of REYNALDO E. SMITH <u>and</u> U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, POST OFFICE, Washington, D.C.

Docket No. 97-2331; Submitted on the Record; Issued May 4, 1999

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DECISION and **ORDER**

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

The issue is whether appellant met his burden of proof to establish that he sustained a recurrence of disability causally related to his January 4, 1995 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 June 10, 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 June 10, 1997 is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, D.C. May 4, 1999

> George E. Rivers Member

David S. Gerson Member

A. Peter Kanjorski Alternate Member