U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of GARY L. CRUSE <u>and</u> U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, POST OFFICE, Hollidaysburg, PA

Docket No. 97-2340; Submitted on the Record; Issued September 9, 1999

DECISION and ORDER

Before GEORGE E. RIVERS, WILLIE T.C. THOMAS, MICHAEL E. GROOM

The issues are: (1) whether the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs properly terminated appellant's compensation benefits effective December 10, 1995; and (2) whether appellant met his burden of proof to establish that he had any disability after December 10, 1995 causally related to his employment injury.

The Board has given careful consideration to the issues 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 dated May 28, 1997 and finalized on June 4, 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 May 28, 1997 and finalized on June 4, 1997 is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, D.C. September 9, 1999

> George E. Rivers Member

Willie T.C. Thomas Alternate Member

Michael E. Groom Alternate Member