U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of DIANNE KEARNS-WILKES <u>and</u> U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, POST OFFICE, Tulsa, OK

Docket No. 99-1051; Submitted on the Record; Issued May 25, 2000

DECISION and ORDER

Before MICHAEL J. WALSH, WILLIE T.C. THOMAS, BRADLEY T. KNOTT

The issue is whether appellant established that she sustained a back condition causally related to factors of her federal employment.

The Board has given careful consideration to the issue involved, the contentions of the parties on appeal and the entire case record. The Board finds that decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs' hearing representative, dated and finalized on December 10, 1998, is in accordance with the facts and the law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the hearing representative.¹

Accordingly, the decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated December 10, 1998 is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, D.C. May 25, 2000

> Michael J. Walsh Chairman

Willie T.C. Thomas Alternate Member

Bradley T. Knott Alternate Member

¹ Although we find that appellant has not submitted sufficient medical evidence to established a *prima facie* case, this decision does not preclude appellant from submitting additional medical evidence, including a rationalized medical opinion, to the Office along with a request for reconsideration.