

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of VERONICA SPARANEY and U.S. POSTAL SERVICE,
POST OFFICE, Clarks Summit, PA

*Docket No. 99-1107; Submitted on the Record;
Issued May 15, 2001*

DECISION and ORDER

Before DAVID S. GERSON, WILLIE T.C. THOMAS,
BRADLEY T. KNOTT

The issue is whether the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs met its burden of proof in terminating appellant's compensation benefits as of July 19, 1997 on the basis that she no longer suffered residuals of her June 17, 1989 employment injury.

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 the decision of the hearing representative of the Office dated January 8, 1999 is in accordance with the facts and the law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the Office hearing representative.¹

¹ Once the Office has accepted a claim and pays compensation, it bears the burden to justify modification or termination of benefits. *Curtis Hall*, 45 ECAB 316 (1994). The Board finds that the Office met its burden of proof in terminating appellant's compensation benefits based on the accurate, thorough and well-rationalized opinion of Dr. David R. Cooper, a Board-certified orthopedic surgeon and impartial medical examiner. *See Gary R. Sieber*, 46 ECAB 215, 225 (1994).

The January 8, 1999 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, DC
May 15, 2001

David S. Gerson
Member

Willie T.C. Thomas
Member

Bradley T. Knott
Alternate Member