

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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In the Matter of MARTIN E. GRAVES and U.S. POSTAL SERVICE,  
POST OFFICE, Chillicothe, OH

*Docket No. 02-1961; Submitted on the Record;  
Issued December 27, 2002*

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DECISION and ORDER

Before ALEC J. KOROMILAS, WILLIE T.C. THOMAS,  
A. PETER KANJORSKI

The issue is whether appellant established that his spondylosis and his degenerative disc disease are causally related to his 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 the June 27, 2002 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is in accordance with the facts and the law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the hearing representative.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The medical opinion of appellant's treating physician, Dr. Edwin H. Season, dated August 11, 2000, lacked medical rationale explaining how appellant's back conditions of spondylosis and degenerative disc disease were causally related to his employment. His opinion was therefore not probative. *See Michael E. Smith*, 50 ECAB 313, 316-17 (1999); *Annie L. Billingsley*, 50 ECAB 210, 213 n. 20 (1998). No other evidence of record addressed causation.

The June 27, 2002 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, DC  
December 27, 2002

Alec J. Koromilas  
Member

Willie T.C. Thomas  
Alternate Member

A. Peter Kanjorski  
Alternate Member