

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of MICHAEL A. WOOTEN and DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Aberdeen, MD

*Docket No. 02-1617; Submitted on the Record;
Issued November 27, 2002*

DECISION and ORDER

Before COLLEEN DUFFY KIKO, DAVID S. GERSON,
A. PETER KANJORSKI

The issue is whether appellant established that he sustained a recurrence of disability commencing April 16, 2001, due to the March 6, 2000 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 April 10, 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.¹

¹ The medical evidence appellant submitted to establish a recurrence of disability consisting of the reports of his treating physician, Dr. John P. O'Hearn, a Board-certified orthopedist, lacked adequate rationale establishing a causal connection between appellant's current medical condition and his March 6, 2000 employment injury; *see Annie L. Billingsley*, 50 ECAB 210, 213 (1998); *Wendell D. Harrell*, 49 ECAB 289, 290 (1998).

The April 10, 2002 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, DC
November 27, 2002

Colleen Duffy Kiko
Member

David S. Gerson
Alternate Member

A. Peter Kanjorski
Alternate Member