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In the Matter of the Compensation of  
**KARIN A. GRISHAM-KEPPLER, Claimant**  
Own Motion No. 04-0272M  
OWN MOTION ORDER  
Claimant Unrepresented  
Liberty NW Ins Corp, Insurance Carrier

Reviewing Panel: Members Langer and Kasubhai.

The insurer has submitted claimant's request for reopening of her Own Motion claim for a worsened condition. ORS 656.278(1)(a) (2001). Claimant's aggravation rights have expired. The insurer recommends reopening of claimant's 1993 claim.

Based on the record, we are persuaded that claimant meets the criteria necessary for her claim to be reopened for a "worsening" of her accepted conditions ("L4-5 mild disc bulge, L5-S1 disc protrusion"). ORS 656.278(1)(a) (2001); *James J. Kemp*, 54 Van Natta 491 (2002). Accordingly, we authorize the reopening of the claim for the insurer to process the claim in accordance with law. When claimant is medically stationary, the insurer shall close the claim pursuant to OAR 438-012-0055.<sup>1</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Entered at Salem, Oregon on July 13, 2004

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<sup>1</sup> Finally, inasmuch as claimant is unrepresented, she may wish to consult the Workers' Compensation Ombudsman, whose job it is to assist injured workers in such matters. She may contact the Workers' Compensation Ombudsman, free of charge, at 1-800-927-1271, or write to:

WORKERS' COMPENSATION OMBUDSMAN  
DEPT OF CONSUMER & BUSINESS SERVICES  
PO BOX 14480  
SALEM, OR 97309-0405