
In the Matter of the Compensation of
MIKE R. SOWERS, Claimant
Own Motion No. 06-0114M
OWN MOTION ORDER
Unrepresented Claimant
Liberty NW Ins Co, Insurance Carrier

Reviewing Panel: Members Langer and Kasubhai.

The insurer has submitted claimant's request for reopening of his Own Motion claim for a worsened condition. ORS 656.278(1)(a). Claimant's aggravation rights have expired. The insurer recommends reopening of claimant's 1994 claim under ORS 656.278(1)(a).

Based on the record, we are persuaded that claimant meets the criteria necessary for his claim to be reopened for a "worsening" of his previously accepted conditions. ORS 656.278(1)(a); *Robert A. Boehm, Jr.*, 58 Van Natta 168 (2006). Accordingly, we authorize the reopening of the claim for the insurer to process in accordance with law. When claimant's condition is medically stationary, the insurer shall close the claim pursuant to OAR 438-012-0055.¹

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Entered at Salem, Oregon on September 22, 2006

¹ Finally, inasmuch as claimant is unrepresented, he may wish to consult the Workers' Compensation Ombudsman, whose job it is to assist injured workers in such matters. He 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