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In the Matter of the Compensation of  
**CURTIS HANCUFF, Claimant**  
Own Motion No. 07-0004M  
OWN MOTION ORDER  
Unrepresented Claimant  
Broadspire, Insurance Carrier

Reviewing Panel: Members Lowell and Biehl.

The self-insured employer 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 employer recommends reopening of claimant's 1996 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 lumbar condition. ORS 656.278(1)(a); *Robert A. Boehm, Jr.*, 58 Van Natta 168 (2006). Accordingly, we authorize the reopening of the claim for the employer to process in accordance with law. When claimant's condition is medically stationary, the employer shall close the claim pursuant to OAR 438-012-0055.<sup>1</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Entered at Salem, Oregon on February 26, 2007

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<sup>1</sup> 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