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Chairman Berg,
IBL Committee Members

The case assignment I received, I'd take claim of Mr. Bruce Lee. It is my understanding that Mr. Lee has worked for Ottertail power company and its predecessor company since 1981. Mr. Lee, according to the records I received stated that he had hurt his back on September 15th, 2005, while moving a large heavy tank with a fellow worker.

Mr. Lee did not seek evaluation or treatment until 2 or 3 weeks later, at that time he went to his family physician Dr. Moore. He was advised that he had diffuse arthritis of his spine. An MRI of the lumbar spine revealed that there was nothing left between the discs at at least two levels. Lee was taken off work October 5th, 2005, he has not been able to return to work since.

Dr. Moore referred Mr. Lee to a specialist in physical medicine, Dr. Killen in January 2006. Mr. Lee at that time had an injection in his "something" spine, which led to little if any improvement, he has continued to take pain medication as prescribed by Dr. Killen but has noted no real relief of pain.

Through the years prior to the September 2005 incident Mr. Lee also had seen orthopedic surgeons regarding both shoulders, however we are focusing on the back problem here. I have no medical background except my own experience, and have not had any legal training, but I do realize that these lumbar back problems are very hard to prove or disprove what caused the problem.

That said, it seems very likely that given the fact Mr. Lee worked for Ottertail Power for 25 or 26 years doing a lot of heavy work and lifting that his work situation contributed to his back problem.

I read through the paper file on Mr. Lee 4 or 5 times. It seems to me that the majority of medical experts agree that Mr. Lee can not be gainfully employed and therefore deserves compensation. It is my opinion that WSI should review this claim and do the right thing for Mr. Lee.

In the case of an individual charge with a felony - the judge instructions to the jury says they need to be sure of there verdict beyond the shadow of a doubt. It is my contention that there is a lot of doubt in WSI decision in Mr. Bruce Lee's claim!

Thank You
Chairman Berg & Committee
Edwood Woody Thorpe