



Pursuant to its procedures, OWCP has determined that cases should be combined where correct adjudication depends on cross-referencing between files.<sup>1</sup> This will allow OWCP to consider all relevant claim files in developing appellant's claim. Moreover, to consider appellant's appeal at this stage would involve a piecemeal adjudication of the issues in this case and raise the possibility of inconsistent results. It is the Board's policy to avoid such an outcome.<sup>2</sup>

The case will be remanded to OWCP to combine case file numbers xxxxxx947 and xxxxxx687. Following this and such other development as deemed necessary, OWCP shall issue an appropriate merit decision on appellant's claim.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the November 10, 2011 Office of Workers' Compensation Programs' decision be set aside and the case remanded to OWCP for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: September 12, 2012  
Washington, DC

Richard J. Daschbach, Chief Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia Howard Fitzgerald, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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<sup>1</sup> Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8(c) (February 2000).

<sup>2</sup> See *William T. McCracken*, 33 ECAB 1197 (1982).