

this doctrine, OWCP then treated appellant's recurrence hearing loss claim as a new claim, and denied it on the grounds that the claim had not been timely filed.

The Board finds that OWCP improperly found that appellant had filed a new, untimely claim. The record indicates that appellant filed a prior claim for an employment-related hearing loss in 2000, which was accepted for hearing loss in 2000. A schedule award for hearing loss was granted by decision dated April 10, 2001. The evidence establishes that appellant retired from the employing establishment in June 2000.

The Board has repeatedly held that a claim for an additional schedule award may be based on new exposure to employment factors or on the progression of an employment-related condition, without new exposure, resulting in greater permanent impairment.³ Based on the evidence of record, this is a claim for additional hearing loss, based on the progression of the condition without new exposure. As such, this case will be remanded for a *de novo* decision on the merits of the claim consistent with this order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs' February 29, 2012 decision be set aside and the case remanded for further action consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: December 21, 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

³ See *B.K.*, 59 ECAB 228 (2007); *A.R.*, Docket No. 12-690 (issued September 12, 2012).