

progression of the condition. In a decision dated June 1, 2011, OWCP denied modification of its prior decision.

In the instant case, OWCP has accepted that appellant was engaged in the same work activities that were responsible for her accepted condition under File No. xxxxxx357. The issue is whether those same activities are responsible for a new injury. As appellant's diagnosed cervical and lumbar conditions are at issue in both cases, medical evidence contained in File No. xxxxxx357 will necessarily bear directly on her claim for compensation in the instant case. Because it is essential for the Board to review the medical evidence contained in File No. xxxxxx357 in order to render a full and fair adjudication of the present appeal, this case will be remanded for OWCP to consolidate case file numbers xxxxxx357 and xxxxxx817. After developing the medical evidence as it deems necessary, OWCP should issue a *de novo* decision on the merits of the claim, in order to protect appellant's appeal rights.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs' June 1, 2011 decision be set aside and the case remanded for further development consistent with this order.

Issued: January 25, 2012
Washington, DC

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

Alec J. Koromilas, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board