

On August 5, 2009 appellant filed a notice of recurrence in File No. xxxxxx321 alleging total disability as of August 1, 2009 due to migraine headaches related to her accepted injury. She asked that her claim be expanded to include a right shoulder injury. In decisions dated October 13, 2009, March 19, 2010 and March 31, 2011, OWCP denied appellant's recurrence claim and request to expand her claim. Appellant disagreed with OWCP's March 31, 2011 decision and appealed to the Board in Docket No. 11-1743.

Both of appellant's claims involve the same claimed head and cervical conditions, which allegedly resulted from the same work factors. Therefore, the medical evidence contained in File No. xxxxxx321 will necessarily bear directly on her claim for compensation in File No. xxxxxx601 and vice versa. The record in File No. xxxxxx601, however, does not contain any evidence relating to the development of the March 12, 2008 traumatic injury claim in File No. xxxxxx321. Because it is essential for the Board to review the medical evidence contained in both files in order to render a full and fair adjudication of the issues in these appeals in Docket Nos. 11-1743 and 11-1663, this case will be remanded for OWCP to consolidate case files xxxxxx321 and xxxxxx601. Reconstruction of the record will be followed by 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 March 31, 2011 decision in File No. xxxxxx321 and the April 21, 2011 decision in File No. xxxxxx601 be set aside and the cases are remanded for further development consistent with this order.

Issued: March 12, 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