



Cases should be combined when correct adjudication of the issues depends on frequent cross-reference between files. OWCP procedures provide for the doubling of a claim when a new injury case is reported for an employee who previously filed an injury claim for a similar condition or the same part of the body and also where two or more separate injuries (not recurrences) have occurred on the same date.<sup>2</sup> The case record now before the Board does not contain the case file for File No. xxxxxx293. Therefore, for a full and fair adjudication, appellant's claims should be doubled. On remand, OWCP shall combine File Nos. xxxxxx723 and xxxxxx293. Following this and such other development as deemed necessary, it shall issue an appropriate decision on his claim for compensation.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the September 24, 2012 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is set aside and the case remanded to OWCP for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: July 15, 2013  
Washington, DC

Patricia Howard Fitzgerald, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Alec J. Koromilas, Alternate Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Michael E. Groom, Alternate Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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