



of her employment. On June 10, 2014 it received her request for reconsideration of its January 28, 2014 decision. By decision dated June 18, 2014, OWCP denied appellant's request for reconsideration, finding that she did not raise substantial legal questions or included new and relevant evidence, as she had only submitted the appeal request form.

The record on appeal indicates that File No. xxxxxx164 may contain evidence pertinent to the present claim under File No. xxxxxx311. Appellant's claim was denied on the basis that she had not submitted a firm medical diagnosis in connection with duties of her federal employment. As appellant's claim for occupational disease occurred within a month of her claim for traumatic injury, dealt with the same bodily member, and alleged that her back condition had worsened after the traumatic event over the period of several weeks due to duties of her employment, medical evidence relating to the earlier traumatic injury under File No. xxxxxx164 would be relevant to the present claim. The Board, therefore, finds that the appeal docketed as No. 14-1558 is currently not in posture for decision. Because the record is incomplete, the Board is unable to render a fully informed adjudication of the case. OWCP procedures also require that cases should be combined where proper adjudication depends on cross-referencing evidence between files, such as 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. For instance, a claimant with an existing case for a back strain submits a new claim for a herniated lumbar disc."<sup>1</sup> In the instant appeal, it appears that for a full and fair adjudication, appellant's occupational injury claim should be combined with her traumatic injury claim pertaining to an incident on October 10, 2013. Accordingly, the case is remanded to OWCP for reconstruction and proper assemblage of the case record, to be followed by the issuance of an appropriate decision.

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<sup>1</sup> Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8(c)(1) (February 2000). See also *J.M.*, Docket No. 13-1111 (issued July 15, 2013).

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the June 18 and January 28, 2014 decisions of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is set aside and the case is remanded for further action consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: December 23, 2014  
Washington, DC

Christopher J. Godfrey, Chief Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia Howard Fitzgerald, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board