

over 35 years of work as an aircraft mechanic. He noted that appellant had difficulty understanding conversations and recommended hearing aids.

OWCP referred the case file together with Dr. Moesinger's report to Dr. Morley Slutsky, a district medical adviser, to determine the extent of appellant's permanent partial impairment and date of maximum medical improvement. In a report dated May 22, 2013, Dr. Slutsky reviewed the record but did not find a copy of the second opinion physician's audiogram. He also noted that the decibel value in the right ear at 2000 Hertz (Hz) was not legible. Dr. Slutsky stated that if more information became available, it could revise his opinion.

By decision dated June 21, 2013, OWCP accepted appellant's claim for bilateral hearing loss. It found that appellant's bilateral hearing loss was not severe enough to be considered ratable and denied a schedule award.

OWCP procedures provide that, after obtaining all necessary medical evidence, the file should be routed to its medical adviser for an opinion concerning the nature and percentage of impairment in accordance with the American Medical Association, *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*, (A.M.A., *Guides*) with the medical adviser providing rationale for the percentage of impairment specified.²

The Board notes that Dr. Slutsky opined that appellant had zero percent binaural hearing loss under the sixth edition of the A.M.A., *Guides* but noted that he was not provided a copy of the May 6, 2013 audiogram and that the decibel value in the right ear at 2000 Hz was not legible. The information forwarded to the medical adviser was incomplete. For this reason, the case will be remanded to OWCP to obtain a complete, legible copy of Dr. Moesinger's report for review by the medical adviser. Thereafter, OWCP should issue an appropriate decision on appellant's claim for a schedule award.

² See Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *Schedule Awards and Permanent Disability Claims*, Chapter 2.808.6(d) (August 2002).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the June 21, 2013 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is set aside and the case is remanded for further development consistent with this order.

Issued: February 12, 2014
Washington, DC

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

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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