



case xxxxxx361 both involve the same body part, they should be combined.” Appellant’s representative requested reconsideration on June 12, 2013. By decision dated July 3, 2013, OWCP denied modification of the September 18, 2012 decision.

In reaching his September 18, 2012 decision, OWCP’s hearing representative relied upon a decision under File No. xxxxxx275. The case record, however, does not contain this decision or any evidence relative to File No. xxxxxx275. The absence of this decision and accompanying evidence precludes the Board from properly reviewing OWCP’s decision as it relied upon evidence from another file number in reaching its conclusions. Moreover, OWCP’s hearing representative stated that the files should be combined due to injuries involving “the same body part.” OWCP procedures provide that cases should be doubled 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.<sup>1</sup> The Board finds that OWCP failed to properly combine the cases and continued to adjudicate the claim. As the case record submitted to the Board would not permit an informed adjudication of the case, the Board finds that the case is not in posture for decision. Consequently, the case will be remanded for OWCP to combine the current case record with File No. xxxxxx275 and properly adjudicate the issue of whether appellant has established a causal relationship between his right knee conditions and factors of his federal employment. Following this and such other development as deemed necessary, OWCP shall issue a *de novo* decision.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the July 3, 2013 decision of the Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs is set aside and the case remanded for further development consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: February 21, 2014  
Washington, DC

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

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge  
Employees’ Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia Howard Fitzgerald, Judge  
Employees’ Compensation Appeals Board

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<sup>1</sup> See Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8(c)(1) (February 2000).