



indicated that the cases should be doubled as soon as the need to do so becomes apparent.<sup>1</sup> As OWCP referenced a prior decision with accepted conditions -- in denying appellant's claim for a schedule award, it should have combined the case files in accordance with its procedures.

As the record before the Board contains no evidence from the prior claim, the Board is unable to properly address and adjudicate the issue of appellant's occupational disease claim under OWCP File No. xxxxxx523.

On remand, OWCP should combine the present case record, OWCP File No. xxxxxx523, with OWCP File No. xxxxxx093. After combining these case records on remand, it should consider the evidence contained in the combined case record and, following any necessary further development, issue a *de novo* decision. Accordingly, the June 12, 2013 decision denying appellant's claim for a schedule award should be set aside.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated June 12, 2013 is set aside and the case remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: July 10, 2014  
Washington, DC

Patricia Howard Fitzgerald, Acting Chief Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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

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<sup>1</sup> Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *Doubling Case Files*, Chapter 2.400.8(c)(1) (February 2000).