

for an employee who previously filed an injury claim for a similar condition and further indicates that the cases should be doubled as soon as the need to do so becomes apparent.² As OWCP's hearing representative referenced prior decisions in which OWCP had accepted one claim for a back condition and denied the other back claim, OWCP should have combined the case files in accordance with its procedures.

As the record before the Board does not contain all the evidence from the prior claims, other than some medical evidence from the accepted claim, the Board is unable to properly address and adjudicate the issue of appellant's current traumatic injury under OWCP File No. xxxxxx436

On remand, OWCP should combine the present case record, OWCP File No. xxxxxx436, with OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx195 and xxxxxx603. After combining these case records on remand, and following any necessary further development, OWCP shall issue a *de novo* decision. Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated January 23, 2014 is set aside, and the case remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: September 26, 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

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