

appellant's surgery was necessitated by the 1998 and 2001 work injuries. By decision dated January 23, 2015, OWCP issued a decision, under file number xxxxxx354, denying his claim because he did not submit sufficient medical evidence to establish that he sustained a work-related recurrence of disability due to the August 28, 1998 work injury.

As the two claims referenced above both relate to appellant's left shoulder condition and he is claiming that he sustained a recurrence of disability due to his August 28, 1998 and February 11, 2001 work injuries, it is unclear whether the record before the Board, OWCP file number xxxxxx354, contains all the evidence that would be relevant to his recurrence of disability claim. Its procedures provide that cases should be combined where correct adjudication depends on cross-referencing between them.² Hence, the Board finds that the case is not in posture for decision as the record before the Board is incomplete and would not permit an informed adjudication of the case by the Board. The case must therefore be remanded to OWCP to obtain its file number xxxxxx127, to be combined with OWCP file number xxxxxx354. After carrying out this case record reconstruction, OWCP shall issue an appropriate merit decision regarding appellant's claim that he sustained a recurrence of disability on December 16, 2013 due to his August 28, 1998 and February 11, 2001 work injuries.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the January 23, 2015 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is set aside and the case remanded to OWCP for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: December 22, 2015
Washington, DC

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

Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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

² Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8c (February 2000).