

The Board has duly considered the matter and concludes that the case is not in posture for a decision. OWCP procedures provide that cases should be doubled when a new injury is reported 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 referenced a prior decision which had been accepted in denying appellant's claim and she appears to be alleging a consequential injury from that claim, OWCP should have combined the case files in accordance with its procedures.

As the record before the Board does not contain the 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. xxxxxx908.

On remand, OWCP should combine the present case record, OWCP File No. xxxxxx908, with OWCP File No. xxxxxx580. After combining these case records on remand, OWCP should consider the evidence contained in the combined case record and, following any necessary further development, issue a *de novo* decision. Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated December 3, 2013 is set aside and the case remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: September 25, 2015
Washington, DC

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

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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

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