

indicates that the cases should be doubled as soon as the need to do so becomes apparent.¹ As OWCP referenced a prior claim which had been accepted for a right knee condition in denying appellant's claim for a new right knee injury, it 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 claim, the Board is unable to properly address and adjudicate the issue of appellant's current traumatic injury under OWCP File No. xxxxxx624

On remand, OWCP should combine the present case record, OWCP File No. xxxxxx600, with OWCP File No. xxxxxx624. 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 regarding whether appellant sustained an injury in the performance of duty on January 14, 2014.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the decisions of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated January 28, 2015 and September 25, 2014 are set aside and the case remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: September 16, 2015
Washington, DC

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

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

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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