



from Dr. Richard Thomas dated October 29, 2014 who reported a history of a prior rotator cuff repair in 2011 with a good result until October 27, 2014 when appellant was lifting at work and felt a pop in his right shoulder. The Board is unable to view claim number xxxxxx544 on the Integrated Federal Employees' Compensation System (iFECS).

The Board has duly considered the matter and notes that the case is not in posture for a decision. The claim before the Board, case file number xxxxxx715, pertains to a claim where OWCP denied appellant's claim for a reinjury of his right shoulder on October 27, 2014 as the weight of the medical evidence failed to establish that his right shoulder injury was causally related to the October 27, 2014 work activity. In the July 16, 2015 decision, OWCP noted reviewing medical evidence and findings made in case file number xxxxxx544 which pertains to an accepted right rotator cuff tendinitis and surgical repair. The evidence thus indicates that claim file number xxxxxx544 has evidence germane to whether OWCP properly denied appellant's claim for compensation for the reinjury of his right shoulder in claim number xxxxxx715. However, as noted, claim file number xxxxxx544 is not presently accessible by the Board. Pursuant to its procedures, OWCP has determined that cases should be combined where correct adjudication depends on cross-referencing between files.<sup>3</sup> For a full and fair adjudication, the Board must be able to review the contents of OWCP claim number xxxxxx544.

The case will be remanded to OWCP to ensure that all consolidated claims are readily accessible. Following this and such other development as deemed necessary, OWCP shall issue an appropriate merit decision on the matter to preserve appellant's appeal rights.

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<sup>3</sup> Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8(c) (February 2000).

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the July 16, 2015 decision be set aside and the matter remanded to OWCP for further proceedings consistent with this order.

Issued: April 20, 2016  
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