

consider doubling the present claim with File No. xxxxxx076. However, OWCP did not double the two files.

The record forwarded to the Board demonstrates that OWCP considered evidence from File No. xxxxxx076 in adjudicating the present claim, including adding a report from File No. xxxxxx076 to the present case record under File No. xxxxxx789. The Board does not have access to File No. xxxxxx076. The Board therefore finds this case is not in posture for a decision, as the record before the Board is incomplete and does not permit an informed adjudication of the case by the Board. Thus, the case must be remanded to OWCP to combine the claim files. OWCP procedures provide for doubling claims when correct adjudication of the issues depends on frequent cross-reference between files.² Upon remand, it should combine File No. xxxxxx076 with the instant case, File No. xxxxxx789. After combining the two records, OWCP should consider all relevant evidence regarding whether appellant sustained left upper extremity conditions as claimed. It should then issue an appropriate merit decision.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the May 9, 2016 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs be set aside and the case remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: August 26, 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

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