

OWCP procedures provide that the cases should be combined when correct adjudication of the issues depends on frequent cross-reference between files.¹ In the instant case, OWCP determined that the recurrence claim should be adjudicated as a new occupational disease claim and requested that the previously accepted claim, File No. xxxxxx168, be doubled with the new occupational disease claim under number File No. xxxxxx793. Upon review of the record, however, it is clear that the record does not contain the factual and medical evidence pertaining to appellant's March 31, 2009 employment injury in File No. xxxxxx168.

The Board will consequently remand the case for OWCP to combine the current case record with File No. xxxxxx168. Following this and any further development deemed necessary, it shall issue a *de novo* decision on the merits.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the August 19 and May 1, 2015 decisions of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs be set aside and the case remanded for further action consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: October 4, 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

¹ Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance & Management*, Chapter 2.400.8(c) (February 2000).