



accepted it for right hip psoas tendinitis and right hip trochanteric bursitis. It paid appellant wage-loss compensation on the supplemental rolls, commencing March 18, 2016, and on the periodic rolls, beginning October 29, 2016.

By decision dated August 30, 2017, OWCP terminated appellant's wage-loss compensation, effective August 29, 2017. On September 6, 2017 appellant, through counsel, requested a telephone hearing before a representative of OWCP's Branch of Hearings and Review and submitted additional medical evidence.

By decision dated April 13, 2018, OWCP's hearing representative found that OWCP had not met its burden of proof to terminate appellant's wage-loss compensation.

By decision dated May 6, 2020, OWCP terminated appellant's medical benefits and wage-loss compensation effective that date. On May 14, 2020 appellant, through counsel, requested an oral hearing before a representative of OWCP's Branch of Hearings and Review. By decision dated October 29, 2020, OWCP's hearing representative found that appellant had no continuing employment-related disability or medical residuals after May 6, 2020.

The Board finds that this case is not in posture for decision.

OWCP's procedures provide that cases should be administratively combined when correct adjudication of the issues depends on frequent cross-referencing between case files.<sup>3</sup> For example, if a new injury case is reported for an employee who previously filed an injury claim for a similar condition or the same part of the body, doubling is required.<sup>4</sup>

As OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx928 and xxxxxx831 both involve injuries to appellant's back for a full and fair adjudication, the Board will remand the case to OWCP to administratively combine the present claim with OWCP File No. xxxxxx831.<sup>5</sup> This will allow OWCP to consider all relevant claim files and accompanying evidence in developing his current compensation claim. Following this and other such further development as deemed necessary, OWCP shall issue a *de novo* decision.

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<sup>3</sup> *R.R.*, Docket No. 19-0368 (issued November 26, 2019); Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance & Management*, Chapter 2.400.8c (February 2000).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *T.T.*, Docket No. 21-0049 (issued May 3, 2021); *S.D.*, Docket No. 19-0590 (issued August 28, 2020).

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the October 29, 2020 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is set aside and the case is remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: October 28, 2021  
Washington, DC

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

Janice B. Askin, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Alternate Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board