

**United States Department of Labor
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board**

<hr/>)	
T.H., Appellant)	
)	
and)	Docket No. 23-1143
)	Issued: January 9, 2024
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,)	
MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY MEDICAL CENTER,)	
Houston, TX, Employer)	
<hr/>)	

Appearances:
Appellant, pro se
Office of Solicitor, for the Director

Case Submitted on the Record

ORDER DISMISSING APPEAL

Before:
ALEC J. KOROMILAS, Chief Judge
JANICE B. ASKIN, Judge
VALERIE D. EVANS-HARRELL, Alternate Judge

On September 5, 2023 appellant sought an appeal from a purported August 24, 2023 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). The Clerk of the Appellate Boards assigned the appeal Docket No. 23-1143.

The Board, having duly considered the matter, notes that the Board has jurisdiction to review final adverse decisions of OWCP issued under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.¹ This jurisdiction encompasses any final decision issued by OWCP within 180 days of the date appellant filed her appeal.² The case record as transmitted to the Board does not contain a final adverse decision of OWCP issued within 180 days from the date of docketing of the current appeal over which the Board may properly exercise jurisdiction. The record contains an August 24, 2023 OWCP letter advising appellant that she had not provided a valid reason for refusing a suitable work offer and that she had 15 additional days to accept the position. This was not a final decision. As there is no final adverse decision issued by OWCP over which the Board may properly exercise

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 8101 *et seq.*; 20 C.F.R. §§ 501.2(c) and 501.3(a).

² 20 C.F.R. § 501.3(e) provides in pertinent part: "Any notice of appeal must be filed within 180 days from the date of issuance of a decision of the OWCP."

jurisdiction, the Board concludes that the appeal docketed as Docket No. 23-1143 must be dismissed.³ Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the appeal docketed as Docket No. 23-1143 is dismissed.

Issued: January 9, 2024
Washington, DC

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

Janice B. Askin, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Valerie D. Evans-Harrell, Alternate Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

³ The Board's decisions and orders are "final upon the expiration of 30 days from the date of their issuance." *Id.* at § 501.6(d).