

regarding her leave. It also threatened to fire her. Appellant noted that she first became aware of her condition on January 29, 2024, and realized its relation to her federal employment on February 9, 2024. She stopped work on April 19, 2024.

In a development letter dated April 24, 2024, OWCP informed appellant that the evidence of record was insufficient to support her claim. It advised her of the type of factual and medical evidence needed to establish her claim and afforded her 60 days to provide the necessary evidence.

OWCP subsequently received medical evidence regarding injuries sustained under OWCP File No. xxxxxx377. It also received medical evidence regarding appellant's treatment for depression.

By decision dated July 10, 2024, OWCP denied appellant's occupational disease claim, finding she failed to establish that the factual component of her claim. It found that the evidence of record was insufficient to establish a compensable employment factor. OWCP concluded, therefore, that the requirements had not been met to establish an injury as defined by FECA.

On July 10, 2025 appellant, through counsel, requested reconsideration of the July 10, 2024 decision. Counsel asserted that appellant sustained depression consequential to her accepted January 18, 2024 employment injury under OWCP File No. xxxxxx377.

By decision dated July 25, 2025, OWCP denied appellant's request for reconsideration of the merits of her claim, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 8128(a).

The Board, having duly considered this matter, finds that the 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 files, including when similar conditions are claimed in such cases.³ Appellant's claims under OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx060 and xxxxxx377 should be administratively combined as correct adjudication of the underlying merit issue depends on frequent cross-referencing between these files.⁴ This will allow OWCP to consider all relevant evidence with regard to appellant's emotional/stress-related condition claim.⁵

The Board shall, therefore, for full and fair adjudication, remand the case for OWCP to administratively combine OWCP File Nos. xxxxxx060 and xxxxxx377. Following this and other such further development as deemed necessary, OWCP shall issue an appropriate decision.

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

⁴ *Id.* See also *K.K.*, Docket No. 20-0581 (issued September 14, 2020).

⁵ See *K.G.*, Docket No. 21-0068 (issued July 29, 2022); *D.J.*, Docket No. 20-0997 (issued November 20, 2020); *S.D.*, Docket No. 19-0590 (issued August 28, 2020).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the July 25, 2025 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: April 22, 2026
Washington, DC

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

Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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