

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

S.A., Appellant)	
)	
and)	Docket No. 26-0032
)	Issued: February 10, 2026
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU)	
OF LAND MANAGEMENT, Sacramento, CA,)	
Employer)	
)	

Appearances: *Case Submitted on the Record*
Stephanie Leet, Esq., for the appellant¹
Office of Solicitor, for the Director

ORDER DISMISSING APPEAL

Before:
ALEC J. KOROMILAS, Chief Judge
PATRICIA H. FITZGERALD, Deputy Chief Judge
VALERIE D. EVANS-HARRELL, Alternate Judge

On October 13, 2025 appellant, through counsel, timely filed an appeal from a purported July 24, 2025 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). The Clerk of the Appellate Boards docketed the appeal as No. 26-0032.

The Board, having duly considered this matter, notes that its jurisdiction is limited to the review of final adverse OWCP decisions issued under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.² This jurisdiction encompasses any final adverse decision issued by OWCP within 180 days of the date appellant filed this appeal.³ Although the case record does contain a letter from

¹ In all cases in which a representative has been authorized in a matter before the Board, no claim for a fee for legal or other service performed on appeal before the Board is valid unless approved by the Board. 20 C.F.R. § 501.9(e). No contract for a stipulated fee or on a contingent fee basis will be approved by the Board. *Id.* An attorney or representative's collection of a fee without the Board's approval may constitute a misdemeanor, subject to fine or imprisonment for up to one year or both. *Id.*; see also 18 U.S.C. § 292. Demands for payment of fees to a representative, prior to approval by the Board, may be reported to appropriate authorities for investigation.

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

³ 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."

OWCP dated July 24, 2025, it is informational in nature and does not constitute a final adverse decision. Correspondence that is purely informational in nature does not constitute a final adverse decision of OWCP from which appellant may properly appeal.⁴ As there is no final adverse decision issued by OWCP over which the Board may properly exercise jurisdiction, the Board concludes that the appeal docketed as No. 26-0032 must be dismissed. Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the appeal docketed as No. 26-0032 is dismissed.

Issued: February 10, 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

⁴ See 20 C.F.R. §§ 501.2(c) and 501.3(a); *Order Dismissing Appeal, K.S.*, Docket No. 20-1401 (issued March 17, 2021); *Order Dismissing Appeal, S.U.*, Docket No. 20-0636 (issued December 3, 2020) (correspondence that is purely informational in nature does not constitute a final adverse decision of OWCP from which appellant may properly appeal).