

The Board, having duly considered the matter, 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 files.¹ 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.²

As OWCP File No. xxxxxx993 is cross-referenced in the present claim, for a full and fair adjudication, this case must be remanded to OWCP. On remand OWCP shall administratively combine the current case record with OWCP File No. xxxxxx993 and any other relevant claim files so it can consider all relevant evidence in adjudicating appellant's disability claim.³ Following this and other such further development as deemed necessary, OWCP shall issue a *de novo* decision. Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the April 8, 2024 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.

¹ Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8c (February 2000); *T.D.*, Docket No. 20-1119 (issued January 29, 2021); *R.R.*, Docket No. 19-0368 (issued November 26, 2019).

² *Id.*; *L.C.*, Docket No. 24-0206 (issued May 16, 2024); *W.M.*, Docket No. 23-0671 (issued December 29, 2023); *M.L.*, Docket No. 20-1176 (issued April 29, 2021); *L.M.*, Docket No. 19-1490 (issued January 29, 2020); *L.H.*, Docket No 18-1777 (issued July 2, 2019).

³ *Supra* note 1 at Chapter 2.400.8c(1); *W.M.*, *supra* note 2; *W.D.*, Docket No. 19-0961 (issued March 31, 2021); *L.P.*, Docket Nos. 18-1558, 18-1568 (issued June 21, 2019).

Issued: July 15, 2024
Washington, DC

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

Janice B. Askin, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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