

# McKeown Law, LLP

## RatingDecision Extraction Project

The RatingDecision Extraction project builds on logic from the previous Codesheet Extract project. In this case, the document being processed is a "RatingDecision," which will contain two separate documents combined into a single one: a "Codesheet" followed by a "Narrative" that contains "decision" information. These will all be recently generated documents, so there will be no "scanned" versions to worry about. The process should accomplish the following:

1. **RatingDecision document added to "ratingdecisions" bucket should trigger the extraction process.** Here, just as with the Codesheet Extract project, processing should be triggered when a new "RatingDecision" is added to the "ratingdecisions" bucket in AWS.
  - a. **"RatingDecision" filename:** RatingDecisions will be named in the following format: "RatingDecision - {NoticeLetterDate} - {ClientID}".
2. **Extracted "codesheet" data will be input to "CodesheetIssues" table. Data from "narrative" portion of document together with the new data added to "CodesheetIssues" table will be input to "Decisions" table.**
  - a. **General Info:**
    - i. **ClientID:** As previously, the documents will have the ClientID imprinted in the bottom left corner of the document.
    - ii. **NoticeLetterID:** Previous project inserted new record to NoticeLetters table then used the created NoticeLetterID when inserting new records to "Decisions" table. Here, the associated NoticeLetter record will already be created, so the NoticeLetterID will need to be queried from the NoticeLetters table.
      1. **NoticeLetterID=** (SELECT NoticeLetterID FROM NoticeLetters where the ClientID= {ClientID from filename} and NoticeLetterDate= {NoticeLetterDate from filename}).
    - iii. **NoticeLetterDate v. RatingDecisionDate:** In previous project the NoticeLetterDate and RatingDecisionDate were interchangeable, however, here these are two separate dates:
      1. **NoticeLetterDate=**{NoticeLetter from filename}
      2. **RatingDecisionDate=**{Date imprinted on the top right of each page of RatingDecision}.

*Note:* The RatingDecision **may** be same date as NoticeLetterDate but will usually be a day or so later than the NoticeLetterDate.
  - b. **"CodesheetIssues" table:** Instead of extracting specific decision data from the codesheet, the information extracted from the "codesheet" will act as a key for deciphering the decision data from the "narrative".

- i. **DecisionDC-DecisionName pair.** Each record on the “CodesheetIssues” table represents a **DecisionDC-DecisionName** pair from the “codesheet” as shown below:


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- ii. For each **DecisionDC-DecisionName pair** on RatingDecision codesheet, a new record will be inserted to the "CodesheetIssues" table with the following fields:
- **NoticeLetterID**=**{SELECT NoticeLetterID FROM NoticeLetters WHERE ClientID= {ClientID from filename} and NoticeLetterDate={NoticeLetterDate from filename}.**
  - **ClientID**=**#inserted ClientID**
  - **CodesheetDate**=**{Date in top right corner of RatingDecision}**
  - **FirstDC**=**FirstDC** if applicable (same as previous project)
  - **DecisionDC**=**DecisionDC** (same as previous project)
  - **DecisionName**= **DecisionName** (same as previous project with below exception)
    - **\*\*EXCEPTION:** IF DecisionName includes the string "associated with", THEN IGNORE "associated with" and any text following that string because this text will not appear on the “narrative” portion of the RatingDecision.
  - **CoreCondition:** "CoreCondition" should be calculated using same logic in previous Codesheet Extract project.
  - **Bilateral:** "Bilateral" should be calculated using same logic in previous Codesheet Extract project.

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- c. **"Decisions" table:** This is the same table populated during Codesheet Extract process. However, the data here will come from the "narrative" portion of the RatingDecision as well as the new records inserted to the CodesheetIssues table.
- i. **RatingDecision "narrative".** The first page of the "narrative" will be in the format below. The relevant data will be found in the numbered "decisions" starting after the capitalized header "DECISIONS" on first page of "narrative" portion of the RatingDecision and ends before "EVIDENCE" header. The first page of "narrative" always appears in following format:

05/02/2023



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
St. Louis Regional Office

Represented By:  
ANDREW J MCKEOWN  
Rating Decision  
05/02/2023


**INTRODUCTION**

The records reflect that you are a Veteran of the Peacetime and Vietnam Era. You served in the Army from March 6, 1974 to April 15, 1974 and the Navy from April 26, 1974 to February 7, 1976 and from September 10, 1976 to August 23, 1977. You filed a new claim for benefits that was received on November 29, 2022. Based on a review of the evidence listed below, we have made the following decision(s) on your claim.

**DECISION**

1. Service connection for lumbosacral strain is granted with an evaluation of 40 percent effective November 29, 2022.
2. Service connection for cervical strain is granted with an evaluation of 30 percent effective November 29, 2022.
3. Service connection for headaches is granted with an evaluation of 30 percent effective November 29, 2022.

7KWGRH7B



- i. **"Numbered" decisions<sup>1</sup> and DecisionName from CodesheetIssues.** Each numbered decision on the rating decision will address a single CodesheetIssue as determined by the DecisionName string (from the list

<sup>1</sup> **Note regarding "numbered" decisions:** If only a single issue is addressed on RatingDecision, then there will be no numbering. However, references to "numbered" decisions refer to the decisions following the "DECISION" header and preceding "EVIDENCE" header. (example: "RatingDecision - 12-05-2022 - QSNPLAX1").

of CodesheetIssues identified in 2.b. above) found within the numbered decision text. The identified DecisionName corresponds to the DecisionName field inserted to the Decisions table.

- For example, if “lumbosacral strain”, “cervical strain”, and “headaches” were identified as DecisionNames associated with CodesheetIssues for the example above, then those DecisionNames would be the subject of the three numbered decisions above.

ii. **DecisionOutcome:** Though each numbered decision will relate to a single DecisionName, it may contain more than one DecisionOutcome. The number of records inserted into the Caspio Decisions table will be determined by the number of DecisionOutcomes contained in the numbered Decision.<sup>2</sup> In most cases the numbered decision will contain a single record for the Decisions table as identified by the following:

- **Granted:** “Service connection for [DecisionName] is granted with an evaluation of [DecisionEvaluation] percent effective [EffDate].”<sup>3</sup>
- **Denied:**
  1. “Service connection for [DecisionName] is denied.”<sup>4</sup>
  2. “Service connection for [DecisionName] as secondary to [PrimaryCondition] is denied.”<sup>5</sup>
  3. “Service connection for [DecisionName] as secondary to [list of SC conditions on codesheet] condition is denied.”<sup>6</sup>
  4. “The previous denial of service connection for [DecisionName] is confirmed and continued.”<sup>7</sup>
  5. “The previous denial of service connection for [DecisionName] as secondary to [PrimaryCondition] is confirmed and continued.”<sup>8</sup>
  6. “The claim for service connection for [DecisionName] remains denied because the evidence submitted is not new and relevant.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See decision 4 on sample document “RatingDecision - 01-17-2023 - 4HPGK2FV”.

<sup>3</sup> See decisions 1 & 2 on sample document “RatingDecision - 01-17-2023 - 4HPGK2FV”.

<sup>4</sup> See decisions 7-12 on sample document “RatingDecision - 05-01-2023 - 7KWGRH7B”.

<sup>5</sup> See decisions 4-6 on sample document “RatingDecision - 01-18-2023 - N41YE3UE”.

<sup>6</sup> See decision 7 on sample document “RatingDecision - 02-08-2023 - 0SKEN06Y”.

<sup>7</sup> See decisions 6-8 on sample document “RatingDecision - 01-31-2023 - UVN6JWA5”.

<sup>8</sup> See decisions 1 & 2 on sample document “RatingDecision - 02-08-2023 - SOIVWYE8”.

<sup>9</sup> See decisions 1 & 2 on sample document “RatingDecision - 01-27-2023 - 0SKEN06Y”.

- **Increased:** “Evaluation of [DecisionName], which is currently [PriorEvaluation] percent disabling, is increased to [DecisionEvaluation] percent effective [EffDate].”<sup>10</sup>
- **Continued:** “Evaluation of [DecisionName], which is currently [DecisionEvaluation] percent disabling, is continued.”<sup>11</sup>
- **Decreased:** “Evaluation of [DecisionName], which is currently {previous evaluation} percent disabling, is decreased to [DecisionEvaluation] percent effective [EffDate].”<sup>12</sup>
- **EEDGranted:**
  1. “Entitlement to an earlier effective date for service connection for [DecisionName] is granted effective [EffDate].”<sup>13</sup>
  2. “A [DecisionEvaluation] percent evaluation has been assigned for rotator cuff strain, right shoulder from [EffDate].”<sup>14</sup>
  3. “Entitlement to an earlier effective date for the evaluation assigned to the service connected [DecisionName] is granted, effective [EffDate].”<sup>15</sup>
- **EEDDenied:**
  1. “Entitlement to an **earlier effective date** for *service connection* for [DecisionName] is denied.”<sup>16</sup> OR
  2. “Entitlement to an **earlier effective date** for *the evaluation* of [DecisionName] is denied.”<sup>17</sup>
- **Deferred:** “A decision on entitlement to compensation for [DecisionName] is deferred.”<sup>18</sup>

iii. **“Decisions” table fields.** Decision fields will be populated as follows:

- **ClientID**= {ClientID from filename}
- **NoticeLetterID**= {SELECT NoticeLetterID FROM NoticeLetters WHERE ClientID= {ClientID from filename} and

<sup>10</sup> See decision 1 on sample document “RatingDecision - 01-18-2023 - MLIETL9E”.

<sup>11</sup> See decisions 2 & 3 on sample document “RatingDecision - 01-18-2023 - N41YE3UE”.

<sup>12</sup> See decisions 2 & 3 on sample document “RatingDecision - 5-26-2022 - UVN6JWA5”.

<sup>13</sup> See decisions 3-4, 8-11 on sample document “RatingDecision - 3-10-2023 - UVN6JWA5”.

<sup>14</sup> See decisions 1-2, 5-7 on sample document “RatingDecision - 3-10-2023 - UVN6JWA5”.

<sup>15</sup> See decisions sample document “RatingDecision - 05-01-2023 - 0SKEN06Y”

<sup>16</sup> See decisions 1 & 6-8 of sample document “RatingDecision - 03-01-2023 - QSNPLAX1”

<sup>17</sup> See decisions 2-5 of sample document “RatingDecision - 03-01-2023 - QSNPLAX1”

<sup>18</sup> See decisions 4-6 on sample document “RatingDecision - 01-17-2023 - 4HPGK2FV”.

NoticeLetterDate={NoticeLetterDate from filename} ORDER BY NoticeLetterInputDate DESC}.

- **NoticeLetterDate**= {NoticeLetterDate contained in filename of RatingDecision}.
- **RatingDecisionDate**= {Date imprinted on top right corner of each page of RatingDecision}
- **DecisionType**=“RatingDecision”
- **DecisionName**= {Matching DecisionName string from CodesheetIssues found in numbered decision}
- **CodesheetIssueID**= {SELECT CodesheetIssueID FROM CodesheetIssues where ClientID={ClientID from filename} AND NoticeLetterID={NoticeLetterID from filename} AND DecisionName= {Matching DecisionName string found in numbered decision}}
- **FirstDC**= {SELECT FirstDC FROM CodesheetIssues where ClientID={ClientID from filename} AND NoticeLetterID={NoticeLetterID from filename} AND DecisionName= {Matching DecisionName string found in numbered decision}}
- **DecisionDC**= {SELECT DecisionDC FROM CodesheetIssues where ClientID={ClientID from filename} AND NoticeLetterID={NoticeLetterID from filename} AND DecisionName= {Matching DecisionName string found in numbered decision}}
- **CoreCondition**= {SELECT CoreCondition FROM CodesheetIssues where ClientID={ClientID from filename} AND NoticeLetterID={NoticeLetterID from filename} AND DecisionName= {Matching DecisionName string found in numbered decision}}
- **Bilateral**= {SELECT Bilateral FROM CodesheetIssues where ClientID={ClientID from filename} AND NoticeLetterID={NoticeLetterID from filename} AND DecisionName= {Matching DecisionName string found in numbered decision}}
- **DecisionOutcome**: DecisionOutcome will be determined by the text surrounding the DecisionName as described in 2.c.ii. The possible outcomes are:
  - **Granted**
  - **Denied**
  - **Increased**
  - **Continued**

- **Decreased**
- **EEDGranted**
- **EEDDenied**
- **Deferred**

- **EffDate**={EffDate associated with DecisionOutcome}

- d. **SMCKGrants table.** Decisions in the format below will not follow the standard template described above. There will be no corresponding “DecisionDC-DecisionName” pair on the codesheet. They will appear as:

“Entitlement to special monthly compensation based on loss of use of a creative organ is granted from [EffectiveDate].”<sup>19</sup>

These do not warrant a record on the Decisions table. Instead, insert a record to the “SMCGrants” table with the following fields:

- **ClientID**={ClientID from filename}
- **NoticeLetterID**={SELECT NoticeLetterID FROM NoticeLetters WHERE ClientID={ClientID from filename} and NoticeLetterDate={NoticeLetterDate from filename} ORDER BY NoticeLetterInputDate DESC}.
- **NoticeLetterDate**={NoticeLetterDate contained in filename of RatingDecision}.
- **RatingDecisionDate**={Date imprinted on top right corner of each page of RatingDecision}
- **EffectiveDate**={EffectiveDate contained in decision}

- e. **DEAGrants table.** DEAGrants are another type of decision that will not warrant a record on the Decisions table. These will be identified by the following text:

“Basic eligibility to Dependents' Educational Assistance based on permanent and total disability status is established from [EffectiveDate].”<sup>20</sup>

When identified, Insert a record to the DEAGrants table with the following fields:

- **ClientID**={ClientID from filename}
- **NoticeLetterID**={SELECT NoticeLetterID FROM NoticeLetters WHERE ClientID={ClientID from filename} and NoticeLetterDate={NoticeLetterDate from filename} ORDER BY NoticeLetterInputDate DESC}.

<sup>19</sup> See decision 3 of sample document “RatingDecision - 04-13-23 - 4HPGK2FV”.

<sup>20</sup> See decision 13 of sample document “RatingDecision - 02-06-2023 - SOIVWYE8”.

- **NoticeLetterDate**= {NoticeLetterDate contained in filename of RatingDecision}.
  - **RatingDecisionDate**= {Date imprinted on top right corner of each page of RatingDecision}
  - **EffectiveDate**= {EffectiveDate contained in decision}
- f. **RatingDecisionInputs table.** This table is an equivalent to the CodesheetInputs table to document status of the processing. Insert RatingDecisionInputStatus as “Complete” or “ProcessingError”.