



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS FIELD OFFICE, REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

DATE May 23, 1983

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

TITLE: Wolf Creek Generating Station
Counterfeit Safety-Related Pipe Hanger

CASE NUMBER: 4-82-018

CONTROL OFFICE: OIFO:Region IV STATUS: CLOSED

PERIOD OF INVESTIGATION: November 30, 1982 - January 14, 1983

REPORTING INVESTIGATOR: *H. Brooks Griffin*
H. Brooks Griffin, Investigator
OI Field Office, Region IV

PARTICIPATING PERSONNEL: Donald D. Driskill, Investigator
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SUMMARY

An investigation was initiated at the Wolf Creek Generating Station, Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KG&E), Burlington, Kansas, following the receipt of an allegation from a Daniel International Corporation (DI) employee concerning the substitution of scrap material by a DI foreman for the original safety-related material in a pipe hanger. Another witness reported that a DI general foreman was made aware of a "bad hanger," but failed to take corrective action. Twelve past and present DI employees, believed to have knowledge of the incident, were interviewed. A DI employee admitted removing the original bottom horizontal piece of a box hanger on March 16-17, 1981, replacing it with scrap material, and stamping heat and location numbers on the counterfeit piece utilizing tools in the field. This individual emphasized that he was only following the orders of the foreman. A former employee stated he assisted in replacing the piece with the understanding that the foreman had ordered this activity. Documents tracing the origination, fabrication, installation, and subsequent inspection of the hanger in question were requested and received. A review of the traveler package for the hanger in question documented repairs to the hanger, but did not document the discarding of a portion of the original hanger or the installation of a counterfeit piece made from scrap material.

The hanger in question was removed by DI employees at the request of the NRC, Office of Investigations Field Office, Region IV. Subsequently, at the request of the NRC, the acting foreman of the DI pipe hanger fabrication shop examined the suspect piece and stated the numbers stamped on the piece contained various irregularities and were not stamped by personnel in the pipe fabrication shop. One DI QC inspector who had initialed the traveler on March 17, 1981, examined the stamped numbers on the alleged counterfeit piece and stated the numbers looked somewhat suspicious, and commented, "I missed it." Review of KG&E documents disclosed that this particular hanger was identified on a list of hangers that were reinspected during the summer of 1981. This reinspection project occurred after another counterfeit hanger, identified in April 1981, was brought to KG&E's attention. The foreman and general foreman who were in charge of the crew that installed the suspect hanger were interviewed, and they denied any knowledge of the fabrication or installation of a counterfeit hanger.