

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATION'S FIELD OFFICE, REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

U.S. NRC

ASSISTANCE TO INSPECTION REPORT
"SUPPLEMENTAL"

November 30, 1983

SUBJECT: COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION:
ALLEGED IMPROPER CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES

REPORT NUMBER: A4-83-005

1. During the course of an unrelated investigation, information was received from five former Brown & Root, Inc. (B&R) employees who were previously identified by Robert Messerly in an "Assistance to Inspection Report" (AIR), report number A4-83-005, dated May 20, 1983, as having knowledge of improper construction practices. These five interviewees were contacted and questioned regarding a separate investigation currently in progress; however, in addition, these five individuals were also questioned concerning allegations that Robert Messerly previously raised in AIR A4-83-005.
2. Between November 1, 1983 and November 22, 1983, these five former B&R employees that Messerly identified as working with or in the same area as himself were interviewed. Attachments (1) through (4) are Results of Interviews with four of these individuals who stated they were not aware of any improper procedures or construction practices. One of these individuals stated he observed Robert Messerly trim a hanger with a torch, however, quickly added he was unaware if Messerly had proper authorization. Attachment (5) is a sworn statement wherein this individual stated he observed numerous large hangers that were altered with a torch by a number of individuals (identification unknown), however, added that he did not know whether or not proper authorization had been obtained.
3. The Result of Interviews and the sworn statement, Attachment (1) through (5), of these former B&R employees will be maintained at the OI Field Office, Region IV.
4. This report is provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region IV management for review, evaluation, and action deemed appropriate.

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Attachments:

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|-----|--|----------|
| (1) | Results of Interview with Former B&R Employee | 11-01-83 |
| (2) | Results of Interview with Former B&R Employee | 11-02-83 |
| (3) | Results of Interview with Former B&R Employee | 11-03-83 |
| (4) | Results of Interview with Former B&R Employee | 11-08-83 |
| (5) | Signed, Sworn Statement of Former B&R Employee | 11-22-83 |

REPORTED BY:

H. Brooks Griffie
H. Brooks Griffie, Investigator
OI Field Office
Region IV

APPROVED BY

R. K. Herr
R. K. Herr, Director
OI Field Office
Region IV

cc: W. J. Ward, OI:HQ w/attachments
E. G. Gilbert, OI:HQ w/attachments
J. T. Collins, RIV w/attachments
T. F. Westerman, RIV w/o attachments

RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH JOE D. WILLIAMS
AS RECORDED BY NRC INVESTIGATOR H. BROOKS GRIFFIN
ON NOVEMBER 1, 1983.

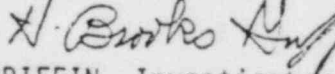
On November 1, 1983, Joe D. WILLIAMS, a former Brown & Root(B&R) ironworker at the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES), was telephonically interviewed by NRC Investigator H. Brooks GRIFFIN. WILLIAMS stated he had worked in Robert MESSERLY's pipehanger crew until he left his employment with B&R in April, 1980.

WILLIAMS stated he used a Hilti drill to drill holes in concrete, but stated he never used a Drillco drill or made cuts through rebar. WILLIAMS said that when he struck rebar, he attempted to relocate the hole within the tolerances imposed by procedure. WILLIAMS stated that when he could not relocate the hole, he turned the matter over to MESSERLY who would arrange to have the rebar cut.

WILLIAMS stated he was unaware of any improper or unauthorized cuts made on hangers using a torch. WILLIAMS said the B&R supervision was very "touchy" about using torches on hangers, and that crew members were required to use radial arm saws to alter hangers even though it was very time consuming. WILLIAMS said that using a torch was "strictly forbidden", and that he never used one. WILLIAMS also said he was not present nor was he aware of the relocation of the main steam line using the polar crane in Unit I.

WILLIAMS stated that during the time he was employed at CPSES, nobody ever intimidated or attempted to intimidate him into conducting his work improperly. WILLIAMS stated that everyone he worked with followed procedure as far as he knew.

END OF RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH JOE D. WILLIAMS ON NOVEMBER 1, 1983.

Signature: 
H. Brooks GRIFFIN, Investigator
OI Field Office, Region IV

RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH RUSSELL HAMILTON
AS RECORDED BY NRC INVESTIGATOR H. BROOKS GRIFFIN
ON NOVEMBER 2, 1983

On November 2, 1983, Russell HAMILTON, a former ironworker at Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES), was telephonically interviewed by NRC Investigator H. Brooks GRIFFIN. HAMILTON stated he was employed by Brown & Root, Inc., (B&R) at CPSES on two occasions. HAMILTON said that he was first employed as a pipefitter's helper for 6 months starting May 1980. HAMILTON stated he left his employment with B&R for about 9 months and returned in 1981 as a third class helper on Bob MESSERLY'S pipe crew. HAMILTON stated he worked on this crew for 9 months and left in the summer of 1982.

HAMILTON was asked whether he had ever used a Drillco "rebar eater" drill during his employment at CPSES. HAMILTON stated that he had used Hilti drills to cut through concrete, but was not familiar with Drillco rebar eaters, and had not ever cut through rebar. HAMILTON stated that when he hit rebar, he relocated his hole. HAMILTON stated that normally his job involved grinding and working as a fitter's helper on hangers. HAMILTON stated that he did not know of anybody who had made unauthorized cuts through rebar at CPSES.

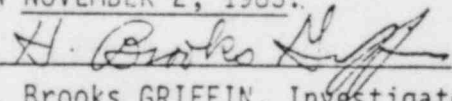
HAMILTON was asked if he remembered an instance in which the polar crane was used to relocate part of the main steam line in Unit 1. HAMILTON stated he remembered the instance because he was working on a hanger in Unit 1 on the day that the line was relocated. HAMILTON stated that another crew was relocating the main steam line up or down, but that he was not involved in the relocation. HAMILTON stated he remembered that Red EVANS, one of the engineers, was involved in monitoring the relocation of the main steam line.

HAMILTON was asked if he had ever used a torch to cut a hanger or had ever seen anybody cutting a hanger with a torch. HAMILTON stated that the only time he had ever seen anybody cut a hanger with a torch was in the early part of 1982 when Bob MESSERLY, the forman of his crew, used a torch to trim hanger number MS1005 on a hanger on elevation 885 located near the hole out of containment. HAMILTON stated

that this was a nuclear pipe support hanger which did not fit as it was supposed to on the main steam line. HAMILTON stated that he remembered that Bob MESSERLY used a torch to trim the top and the bottom of the hanger where it connected to the main steam line. HAMILTON stated he remembered that Billy JONES, another member of the crew, also was involved in the cutting of the hanger. HAMILTON stated that after MESSERLY had finished cutting the hanger, he was involved in the grinding of the hanger to smooth the portion that had been cut. HAMILTON said he remembered that the hanger was the proper fit on the top and bottom after this alteration was made.

HAMILTON stated that there were no instances during his employment with B&R in which he was intimidated or that anyone attempted to intimidate him into conducting his work improperly. HAMILTON stated that he and his crew members were required to conduct their work in accordance with procedures.

END OF RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH RUSSELL HAMILTON ON NOVEMBER 2, 1983.

Signature: 

H. Brooks GRIFFIN, Investigator
OI Field Office, Region Iv

RESULT OF INTERVIEW WITH JOE GRAY
AS RECORDED BY NRC INVESTIGATOR H. BROOKS GRIFFIN
ON NOVEMBER 3, 1983.

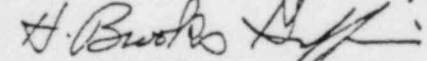
On November 3, 1983, Joe GRAY, a former Brown & Root (B&R) structural welder at the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES), was telephonically interviewed by NRC Investigator H. Brooks GRIFFIN. GRAY stated he had worked at CPSES two different times beginning in October 1975 until July 1977, and was rehired 18 months later and continued working until January 1983.

GRAY stated that during his employment at CPSES, he never used a Hilti or Drillco drill or made cuts through rebar. GRAY also stated he was not present when the main steam line was relocated using the polar crane.

GRAY stated he did not know of any instances when torches were used to cut hangers except to scrap hangers on a design change. GRAY said that he was always instructed by his supervisor to used a grinder to make alterations on hangers.

GRAY stated that during the time he was employed at CPSES, nobody intimidated or attempted to intimidate him into performing his work improperly. GRAY stated that his foreman was Mike SANDERS, and that SANDERS never threatened or intimidated him.

END OF RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH JOE GRAY ON NOVEMBER 3, 1983.

Signature: 
H. Brooks GRIFFIN, Investigator
OI Field Office, Region IV

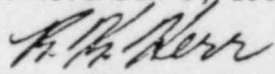
RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH BARRY KERFOOT
AS RECORDED BY NRC INVESTIGATOR R.K. HERR
ON NOVEMBER 8, 1983

On November 8, 1983, Barry KERFOOT, a former Brown & Root (B&R) ironworker at the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES) was telephonically interviewed by NRC Investigator R.K. HERR. KERFOOT stated he was employed at CPSES from July 1978 to March 1979, when he left B&R and went into business for himself. KERFOOT said that his foreman was Robert MESSERLY.

KERFOOT said that while he was employed at CPSES, he was not aware of any undocumented or unauthorized holes drilled through rebar. KERFOOT also said he was unaware of the use of the polar crane to relocate the main steam line. KERFOOT denied any knowledge of cuts made on hangers using torches.

KERFOOT said that while he was employed at CPSES, nobody intimidated him or attempted to intimidate him into conducting his work improperly. KERFOOT also stated that he never heard MESSERLY say he had been intimidated, and said he had never heard of anyone attempting to intimidate MESSERLY.

END OF RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH BARRY KERFOOT ON NOVEMBER 8, 1983.

Signature: 

R.K. HERR, Investigator

OI Field Office, Region IV

STATEMENT OF
Billy Ray JONES

Billy Ray Jones

I, Billy Ray JONES, hereby make the following voluntary statement to H. Brooks GRIFFIN, who has identified himself to me as an Investigator with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I make this statement freely, with no threats or promises of reward having been made to me.

I was employed as a Brown & Root structural ironworker at the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES) from September 1976 until June 1983. My foreman on my hanger crew was Robert MESSERLY.

I remember one occasion in which MESSERLY instructed me to cut a 45° bevel completely around a piece on a large hanger using a cutting torch on elevation 885. I do not remember when I made this cut; ^{(maybe 1982). B.R.J.} ~~but it was soon after I began working at~~ CPSES. I do not specifically remember the location or hanger number, but I ^{B.R.J. (maybe MS1004-007-023)} could identify the hanger if I went back to the site.

After MESSERLY left his job at CPSES, Charles NEAGLE took over as foreman of my crew. I remember NEAGLE instructed me to make cuts using a torch on one of the large hangers on elevation 885. I remember the hanger needed to be beveled. Again I do not recall the specific location or identification of the hanger, but I could find it if I went on site. ^{B.R.J.} ~~approximately~~ ^{approximately} 20 feet off of 270° azimuth.

Gerald LEMKE took over as foreman for NEAGLE, and I remember LEMKE instructed me to make a cut on a hanger ^{B.R.J. (the same as above)} on elevation 885 on a "kicker" for a full penetration

Billy Ray Jones

weld. I remember Raymond HEABERT was the superintendent at that time, and he was aware of the work we were doing.

I remember that two stanchions on elevation 885 near the stairs were cut with torches too deep, and ^{B.R.J. one of} the cuts ^{was} built back up using welding material then

ground down and smoothed. I ~~do not~~ remember the identification of the ^{B.R.J.} stanchions ^{at} the time when these cuts were made. I made Sonny RINER, the

superintendent, aware of these cuts before I left my employment with Brown & Root. ^{B.R.J.} IF I went back on site, I could show an NRC inspector

exactly where the excessive gaps were located.

^{B.R.J.} In 1979 ^{a hanger} I was made foreman over ~~the~~ crew, I also instructed my crew to make

cuts on hangers using a torch. This was a regular practice by the crews,

because altering a hanger using a grinder took too long. When I was the

foreman, Larry DONUHUE was my general foreman and Ronnie JOHNSON was my

superintendent, and they both knew we regularly made "field" cuts on hangers

^{B.R.J.} Later when I worked for Messerly and Heabert, using torches. ^{we} also used torches to heat pieces of hangers so they could be

bent to fit properly. I remember there were specific procedures restricting the

amount of heat we could apply to bend a hanger piece.

Most of members of my crew used torches on hangers as occasions required. All

of the cuts I made on hangers using a torch were "field" cuts. ^{Normally} The ~~procedures~~

~~required that~~ hangers that were to be cut down or removed were to be cut out

using a grinder. I recall that "track torches" were used to make alterations of

hangers in the "fab" shop, but I ^{also used it in the field.} was not involved in those cuts. I recall that

superintendents, HEABERT and DEAN, ordered saddles on certain hangers heated and

porto-power hydraulic jacks used to bend the metal to make it fit. I do not

specifically remember the identification of these hangers ^{B.R.J.} or the time which this

was done.

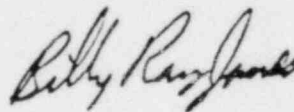
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I do not know if all the cuts made on these large hangers on elevation 885 were authorized. I am not personally aware of any Component Modification Cards (CMCs) or Design Change Authorizations (DCAs) authorizing these cuts, but they may have been authorized. I knew they were allowed to alter the hangers ^{with torches B.R.} in the "fab" shop by procedure, but I did not know if it was allowed in the field.

Following my interview with Investigator GRIFFIN on the subject of intimidation earlier in 1983, I was quizzed by a general foreman, ^{Edward Halford B.R.} although I do not remember his name. I believe the Brown & Root employees were placed under pressure by Brown & Root management by this practice. I also believe that Stanley WILLIAMSON, a former Brown & Root employee, was threatened with termination by a

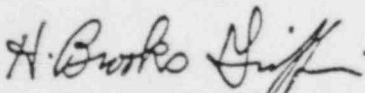
^{B.R.} Brown & Root supervisor ^{Robert Messerly B.R.} and late quit his job and moved to Houston. I ~~do not~~ remember the threat was over the excessive gap in the above described ^{stanchion} ~~know who the supervisor was, the reason for the threat,~~ when the incident ^{but I} occurred. ^{do not B.R.} remember

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 3 typed pages. I have made and intialed any necessary corrections and have signed my name in ink in the margins of each page. I swear that the foregoing statement is true and correct. Signed November 22, 1983.



Billy Ray Jones

Subscribed and sworn before me this 22nd day of November 1983 in Granbury, Texas.



H. Brooks Griffin