

HELPFUL PROCEDURES

The following list itemizes procedures taken by the utility during an outage that would facilitate the efforts of the auditor to obtain data necessary for the steam path audit. It has been our experience that these procedures are often followed by utilities as standard operating procedure.

1. Upon removal of the top half of the casing containing the stationary blading, place the casing on the floor such that the horizontal joint is facing up (i.e. “upside down”). This allows easy access to the blading for inspection.

NOTE: If with wheel and diaphragm blading it is necessary to lay the stationary blading on its side, please do so with the trailing edges facing up.

2. Upon removal of the top half labyrinth-type packing (e.g. N1, N2, “HP Dummy”, etc.), do not remove the packing rings immediately. These rings are eventually removed from their casings, bound with duct tape, labeled and set aside for further action. The auditor’s ability to gain access to these rings while they are in their casings for tooth height measurements, photographs and inspection of any unusual damage greatly enhances the steam path audit procedure.
3. If the utility plans to grit-blast top-half stationary blading immediately after its removal from the turbine, please wait until the auditor has had an opportunity to inspect the blading. Quite often there is a one-to-two day gap between blading removal and grit blasting which allows plenty of time for the auditor to obtain the necessary data.
4. If the auditor is not on-site to inspect the bottom half horizontal joint immediately after the top half removal, the top half horizontal joint may be inspected providing it is accessible, e.g., on blocks high enough to allow measurements and photographs to be taken.