

1 Q. Why was this problem not identified in the 2005 major overhaul of Unit 2?
2 What conclusions regarding the condition of the waterwalls were reached
3 after the major overhaul?
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6 A. During the 2005 major outage, several blisters were found on the waterwall
7 tubes not detected during any previous outage. Prior to 2005, waterwall
8 cleaning was done using a combination of mechanical equipment and
9 manual labour. During the 2005 outage, a new cost-effective industry
10 technique using 50,000 psi water pressure did a superior job in removing the
11 long-standing slag build-up and exposing previously undetected surface
12 blisters. Photos were subsequently taken and a blister sample cut for
13 independent analysis. Results indicated that the blistering was produced
14 from localized overheating which can be repaired in-situ. There was no
15 indication of any widespread Hydrogen damage. Blistering could have been
16 caused by many mechanisms as there was no single event or operating
17 condition known that could have resulted in this failure.