

As a maintenance manager of AES Maritza 670MW lignite coal power plant with two Alstom turbines, I had an opportunity to work with Steam Turbine Services in couple of occasions in AES Maritza, Bulgaria and AES Guayama, Puerto Rico, both with Alstom turbines.

During power plant construction STS provide AES Maritza with overview of Turbine/Generator/BOP installation and support regarding minimums safety stock of spare parts, special tools availability and condition evaluation after handing over from Alstom.

After issues with sticking HP Main stop valve and shuttering of HP Vertical Control Valve, in 2011 decision for replacing HP Main Stop and HP Vertical Control valves diffusers (crimped to bolted type) was taken. STS support AES Maritza with time-schedule, terms and conditions for Contactors Company and spare parts availability. Based on Charlie Dupuis experience inspection list was created and additional inspections have been performed and critical findings rectified. Missing jacking oil distributor key and pressure gauges have been supplied by STS.

2014 Turbine 1 and 2 B inspection with scope of all bearings and valves, Generator DIRIS and LP L0 blade fathering was performed.

STS revised and advice on outage schedule, scope of work, spare parts recommendations and comparison with those already available in warehouse, terms and conditions of mechanical, NDT, blasting contractors, etc.

Jeff Le Page presence during the outage was invaluable with his experience and “second pair of eyes” looking after all daily activities, advising on current findings and options available.

Knowing in details Alstom turbines STS advice AES Maritza for installation of lateral LP hatches – allowing easy access to LP rotor for balancing. Modification was performed and the time for LP rotor balancing was minimized – decreasing post commissioning time and increasing plant revenue for both Units.

STS are printing daily reports regarding activities performed for the day and next day scheduled activities. Detailed final report pointing out all activities performed and those outstanding with technical recommendations, photos and analysis is delivered to the owner.

STS are providing free of charge phone advices at the moments when you are in the “forest and can’t see the trees”, offering options/solutions, recommendations and contacts for suppliers and contractors.

I would not hesitate to recommend them to any company looking for turbine, generator and BOP experience regarding technical issues, outage preparation, spare parts identification/delivery, reconditioning/reverse engineering and logistic.

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