A power plant scheduled a month-long shutdown to remove residue and aged surface contaminants from 158m² [1,700ft²] of stainless steel turbine fans. The turbine’s base would also be refurbished and bearings and seals would be replaced. Plant engineers searched for a way to streamline maintenance and reduce the extra cost of sending the turbine out for cleaning. With engineering approval, the project contractor used a low dust and low rebound composite abrasive technology called Sponge-Jet Sponge Media abrasive. Silver Sponge Media abrasive with 220-grit and 320-grit aluminum oxide was selected to remove the contaminants and leave the stainless steel substrate unmarred. The contractor noted the following benefits:

- **Blast-Clean in Sensitive Environments** - Sponge Media abrasives drastically suppress potential airborne dust at the source. As a result, simplistic containment was quickly erected and blast-cleaning took place within just five meters (15ft) from the original turbine location.

- **Limit Shutdown Time** - With process dust efficiently suppressed, trades were able to conduct maintenance on other parts of the turbine without interruption; maintenance that was originally scheduled to begin after blasting-cleaning.

- **Sensitive yet Aggressive** - Silver Sponge Media abrasive provided the perfect combination of abrasiveness and sensitivity to quickly and effectively clean the substrate.

Using Silver Sponge Media abrasives, the contractor cut the shutdown time by 60% (30 to 10 days), blast-cleaning at 5.5m²/hr [1ft²/min]. Plant engineers remarked how easily the process was to control and were impressed that nearby trades could continue maintenance during blast-cleaning.