

Every year, BMA offers a comprehensive service programme under its global "Safety Can Be Planned" initiative. Surface crack inspection for the tower bull gear is the key element of this programme. Depending on the operating life of a bull gear and the loads it has to take, microcracks can develop in the bull gear teeth. Although these cracks are not necessarily critical, they should be checked and recorded once a year. Any damage that might potentially get worse can thus be detected and the required measures taken at an early stage. If necessary or if requested by the customer, the inspection programme can also be extended to cover a complete extraction plant review, including the journal and neck bearings.

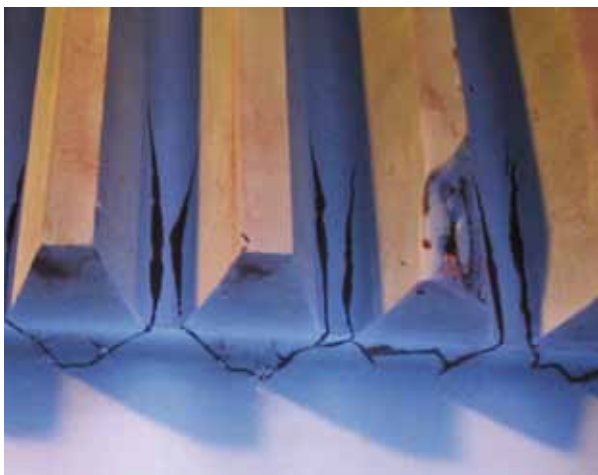
Many of our customers throughout the world ask for this BMA service every year. In 2010, we had a large number of requests from our US customers. Under the responsibility of BMA America, our expert staff inspected the extraction plants of the Bay City, Caro, Sebewaing, Crosswell, Fort Morgan, Scottsbluff, Renville, Drayton, Sidney and Billings sugar factories. At the Drayton sugar factory, the defoamer screens of the CCC mixer were found to have been considerably damaged. This situation could be rectified in due time before the start of the campaign. Another critical situation was detected at the Renville factory, where the bottom-end bearing of one of the two towers was defective. Here again, repairs could be completed before the campaign started. Without BMA's routine inspection, these conditions would have remained undiscovered and would have led to plant outage during the campaign.

*Bernd Dibowski*

*UV light makes cracks*

*visible during magnetic*

*powder inspection*



*Visual inspection of the*

*bottom-end bearing of*

*the extraction tower*

