



This spring 2004 photo made available by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shows the finish peeling off a wall at the Oconee nuclear plant in South Carolina. An NRC inspector general's report in September 2007 said the operator had failed to manage this aging problem as it promised during relicensing. Even mundane deterioration at a reactor can carry harsh consequences. For example, peeling paint and debris can be swept toward pumps that circulate cooling water in a reactor accident. (AP Photo/Nuclear Regulatory Commission)

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