New Ideas for Strengthening the Design Basis Threat (DBT) Process

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Strengths of the DBT approach

• Performance-based replacement for old compliance-based approaches
• Allows design and testing against variety of threats
• Promotes consideration of new threats
Understanding the Threat

• Sharing incident details and intelligence constrained by security concerns
  – More limited access databases needed

• Insider threat poorly understood
  – PRPs reduce, but do not eliminate
  – Common Problem of Redundancy Problem
  – Comparative research from intelligence, financial, and police forces needed

• Reactive adversary requires “reactive” DBT
Implementing the DBT

• Avoid “single-point DBT” fixation

• Assess adequacy of measures against different kinds of threats (guns blazing vs. deception, e.g.)

• Avoid “goal displacement”
Global Minimum DBT?

• Implement via UNSCR 1540?
  – All states must put in place “appropriate effective” nuclear security measures

• Number of terrorists, capability, insiders

• Make sure min DBT is a floor, not a ceiling
  – Require periodic threat evaluation