A Practical Approach to Assessing Nuclear Threats

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Introduction

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- Need for a consistent and transparent approach to assessing nuclear threats
- Process needs to already be in place
- Requires multi-disciplined team approach
- Ensures assessment is timely and effective

The Information Assessment Team

- Focal point for assessing all reported threats
  - **A threat is defined as information - explicit or implied that a malevolent act may be committed**
- Available 24/7 through NRC Operations Center
- Consists of threat analysts, security specialists, and reactor, materials and cyber technical experts
- Coordinates outreach to licensees, law enforcement and other government agencies
- Provides recommendations for follow-on actions

Handbook of Potential Scenarios

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- Handbook developed to facilitate discussions and guide potential actions
- General categories of scenarios include
  - Suspected tampering, vandalism, sabotage
  - Suspected or actual intrusion
  - Nuclear extortion threat
  - Suspected theft of Special Nuclear Material
  - Bomb threat

Handbook of Potential Scenarios

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- General categories of scenarios include
  - Suspected Arson
  - Radiological Dispersal Device Threat
  - Radioactive Contamination threat
  - Non-specific threats
  - Computer System or cyber threat

Handbook of Potential Scenarios

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- Initial assessment evaluates from safety, operational, security and investigative perspective
- Goal to identify any immediate threat to safe operation
- Identify underlying security issues
- Primary responsibilities for response belong to licensee and law enforcement
- NRC provides oversight of licensee actions

Database Development

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- Post 9/11 password-protected database developed to record actions regarding threats and security events
- Available to licensees and appropriate government agencies
- Used for development of trend reports
- Feeds into National-level evaluations of threats to all elements of critical infrastructure

Conclusion

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- IAT process has proven to be an effective process for quickly assessing threats
- Can be adapted to member state's regulatory, legal and organizational structure
- Key element is having process in place
- Should have small group of experts available 24/7
- Look at safety as well as security concerns
- Enhances information-sharing between regulatory authority and other key elements of government

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