



UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
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NRC Statement on Security Assessment Requirements for New Reactors

Contrary to recent news stories, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission puts public safety at the top of its priorities and has significantly strengthened security at operating nuclear power plants. The NRC is working aggressively to apply to new reactor designs security requirements already imposed on currently operating nuclear power plants. By Commission direction, over the past few months, NRC has developed a proposed rule to ensure that security design features are assessed early in the design and regulatory review process and could be incorporated into a new plant design (including site layout) to enhance security effectiveness.

We want to make clear that the nuclear industry, in its Dec. 8 letter, asks nothing new or beyond what the NRC already has underway for new reactors. The industry proposes an alternative approach to the NRC's proposed rulemaking on the security assessment requirements for new reactors. The Commission will consider all proposals – those of the NRC staff, industry and others – before it reaches a decision on how to move forward with the proposed rule. The proposed rule will go through the normal rulemaking process, providing all members of the public as well as other stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the proposal before the Commission issues a final rule on this matter.

Recent news stories have confused the proposed rule on new plant security assessments with a final rule on the design basis threat (DBT) – the threat against which plants must defend with high assurance using their own resources. The Commission is scheduled to vote on this issue Jan. 11.

The proposal for new reactor security assessments (10 CFR 73.62) can be found in NRC staff paper SECY-06-0204. The final rule for the DBT (10 CFR 73.1) can be found in SECY-06-219 (<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secys/2006/>).