NATO Project SST.CLG.978964

Terrorist Attacks on Nuclear Power Plants and Nuclear Material Transports

SUMMARY

Nuclear power plants (reactor building, spent fuel storage, vital areas) and the transport of nuclear material (spent fuel, waste) have long been recognized as potential targets for terrorist attacks (1,2). Subsequent studies and experimental tests contained considerable critique of some of these assessments (3). More recent research has addressed pertinent topic areas, such as vulnerability of nuclear reactors to terrorist attacks, radiological sabotage at nuclear power plants, and radiological terrorism (4,5,6). The project foresees the generic assessment of the immediate consequences due to a terrorist attack on a nuclear power plant and a transport of nuclear spent fuel by rail and road.

The objective of the project is the development of a comprehensive overview of potentially feasible threat scenarios modern terrorists may envisage against a generic nuclear power plant, aiming at the theft of nuclear material or sabotage of such sites, and against a transport of nuclear material by rail or road.

References:

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