



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 07 May 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports the average price of gasoline topped \$3 a gallon at the pump Friday, May 4, amid growing concerns that refineries are simply not making enough gas to meet peak summer demand. (See item [2](#))
- Federal officials on Friday, May 4, placed a hold on 20 million chickens raised for market in several states because their feed was mixed with pet food containing an industrial chemical. (See item [24](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *May 04, Business Review (NY)* — **Electricity report urges improvements to natural gas supply infrastructure.** The latest report from the New York Independent System Operator finds that there should be adequate capacity through 2010, but warned of potential deficiencies by 2011. While the report, *Power Trends 2007*, found significant gains in renewable resources such as wind, and gains in opening access to the bulk electricity grid for competition, it noted areas of deficiency, including the absence of a streamlined siting and permitting process for major power plants. In addition, an increasing dependence on natural gas leaves the state's wholesale electricity markets vulnerable to price volatility. The report recommended pipeline

infrastructure improvements to address the situation, and said that additional liquefied natural gas facilities should be developed in the U.S. The study found that there are sufficient supplies of electricity for peak load demands expected over the summer.

Report: http://www.nyiso.com/public/webdocs/newsroom/press_releases/2007/nyiso_ptrends07_final.pdf

Source: <http://albany.bizjournals.com/albany/stories/2007/04/30/daily43.html>

- 2. *May 04, Associated Press* — Pump prices hit \$3 a gallon.** The average price of gasoline topped \$3 a gallon at the pump Friday, May 4, amid growing concerns that refineries are simply not making enough gas to meet peak summer demand. But oil and gasoline futures fell on light volume Friday. Analysts said traders had little news to drive buying or selling, but may have sensed that the gasoline market has topped out. "We're probably pretty close to the peak on retail gasoline," said Kevin Lindemer of Global Insight's energy group. According to the Oil Price Information Service and AAA, the national average price of a gallon of gasoline hit \$3.012 Friday, up 2.1 cents overnight. Prices at the pump generally lag the futures markets, so consumers can end up paying more for gas even as futures prices drop. Gas prices have been driven higher in recent months by a slew of unexpected refinery outages and shutdowns in recent weeks. News Thursday that BP PLC's 400,000 barrel-per-day refinery in Whiting, IN, will not be operating at full capacity for several months due to unexpected repairs is just the latest in a string of such announcements.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/04/AR2007050400392.html>

- 3. *May 03, Associated Press* — New York City utility gets taxis to guard hot spots.** Utility crews have discovered so many stray voltage areas where pedestrians walk that Consolidated Edison has hired hundreds of cab drivers to park and stand guard until repairs are done, a company spokesperson said. At least 1,500 hot spots — manholes, grates or other items that can deliver shocks — were found in the first four months of this year as part of a safety program prompted by the 2004 electrocution of a woman walking her dogs. The utility has been unable to guard all the areas with its own vehicles and has turned to livery cabs for help, company spokesperson Chris Olert said. The drivers park near marked-off danger spots. Placards on their cars explain that the area contains "an extremely dangerous electrified object or structure," and the car is there to guard it from pedestrians. About 1,000 livery cab drivers have been involved since the effort began six months ago.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,,-6605420,00.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

- 4. *May 04, Honolulu Advertiser* — Fumes cancel classes at Kahuku, Hawaii.** School officials canceled classes Friday, May 4, at Kahuku High and Intermediate School in Hawaii because of lingering fumes from pesticide spray that sent three girls and a boy to Kahuku Hospital Thursday for observation. The spraying occurred Thursday afternoon when a farmer's plane drifted over the school campus.

Source: http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/May/04/br/br3_095274816.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *May 04, Washington Post* — **Projectile bomb attacks hit record high in Iraq.** Attacks in Iraq involving lethal weapons that U.S. officials say are made in Iran hit a record high last month, despite efforts to crack down on networks supplying the armor-piercing weapons known as explosively formed projectiles, according to a senior U.S. commander. The number of attacks with the projectiles rose to 65 in April, said Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, who oversees day-to-day U.S. military operations in Iraq. The growing use of the projectiles is a major concern for American commanders because the weapons are powerful enough to punch through the heaviest U.S. armored vehicles, including the Abrams tank. As a result, the weapons are far more lethal than other roadside bombs.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/03/AR2007050302530.html>

6. *May 03, CongressDaily* — **House panels trim missile defense.** The House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee agreed unanimously Wednesday, May 2, to carve \$764 million from the Pentagon's \$8.9 billion fiscal 2008 budget request for missile defense programs. As part of the overall missile defense cut, the panel's markup of its portion of the authorization bill sliced \$160 million from the Pentagon's \$310 million proposal for a missile defense site in Eastern Europe. The cut would prevent the military from doing any construction or other work to prepare a proposed base in Poland for so-called ground-based missile defense interceptors.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0507/050307cdam2.htm>

7. *May 03, CongressDaily* — **Panels give Special Operations, Navy more procurement funding.** The House Armed Services Terrorism Subcommittee agreed Thursday, May 4, to provide an additional \$85 million to the U.S. Special Operations Command to pay for needed equipment left out of the Bush administration's fiscal 2008 defense budget request in February. Meanwhile, the House Armed Services Seapower and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee unanimously approved the addition of funds to build two extra ships and to start work toward building two nuclear attack submarines a year by 2010. The Seapower panel also added \$4.1 billion for mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, on top of \$3 billion in the fiscal 2007 war supplemental and \$400 million in the president's budget.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0507/050307cdpm1.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *May 04, Webuser (UK)* — **New methods enrich cyber thieves.** VirusPC Computer hackers are making more money than drug dealers by engineering sophisticated new methods of attack, a report has revealed. According to anti-virus company PC Tools, new crime-based online threats have soared by 120 percent in the last few months. PC Tools claims that new methods, such as creating "stealth mode viruses" — which run on a computer without being detected —

have increased dramatically. Also on the rise are metamorphoses of Trojans, where basic signatures of threats are constantly changed to confound anti-virus programs, and rootkits which remain hidden for weeks or even months before unleashing dangerous attacks. "Cyber thieves are making as much money as drug dealers, according to a recent global identity theft report," said Michael Greene, vice president of Product Strategy at PC Tools.

Source: <http://www.webuser.co.uk/news/news.php?id=118654>

9. *May 04, Government Technology* — **USB worm targets removable memory sticks to infiltrate business.** A warning has been released about a family of worms that spreads by copying itself onto removable drives such as USB memory sticks, and then automatically runs when the device is next connected to a computer. The W32/SillyFD-AA worm hunts for removable drives such as floppy disks and USB memory sticks, and then creates a hidden file called autorun.inf to ensure a copy of the worm is run the next time it is connected to a Windows PC. It also changes the title of Internet Explorer windows to append the phrase "Hacked by 1BYTE." "With USB keys becoming so cheap they are increasingly being given away at tradeshow and in direct mailshots. Marketing people are prepared to use them as 'throwaways' with the aim of securing sales leads," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos. "Computer owners should tread very carefully when plugging an unknown device into their PC, however, as it could have malicious code planted on it. With a significant rise in financially motivated malware it could be an obvious backdoor into a company for criminals bent on targeting a specific business with their malicious code."

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/magazine/story.php?id=105336>

10. *May 04, Associated Press* — **TSA loses hard drive with personal info.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has lost a computer hard drive containing Social Security numbers, bank data and payroll information for about 100,000 employees. Authorities realized Thursday, May 3, the hard drive was missing from a controlled area at TSA headquarters. TSA Administrator Kip Hawley sent a letter to employees Friday apologizing for the lost data and promising to pay for one year of credit monitoring services. The agency said it did not know whether the device is still within headquarters or was stolen. TSA said it has asked the FBI and Secret Service to investigate and said it would fire anyone discovered to have violated the agency's data-protection policies. In a statement released Friday night, the agency said the external hard drive contained information on employees who worked for the Homeland Security agency from January 2002 until August 2005. The agency added a section to its Website Friday night addressing the data security breach and directing people to information about identity theft.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/04/AR2007050401801_pf.html

11. *May 03, Department of the Treasury* — **National Money Laundering Strategy released for 2007.** The U.S. Departments of Treasury, Justice, and Homeland Security Thursday, May 3, issued the 2007 National Money Laundering Strategy, a report detailing continued efforts to dismantle money laundering and terrorist financing networks and bring these criminals to justice. Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Justice Department's Criminal Division said, "Implementation of this strategy will greatly assist in efforts to seize and forfeit millions in illegal proceeds that flow through the international financial system." The 2007 Strategy addresses the priority threats and vulnerabilities identified by the Money Laundering

Threat Assessment released in 2006, the product of an extremely valuable investigation into the current and emerging trends and techniques used by criminals to raise, move, and launder proceeds. The Assessment — the first government-wide analysis of its kind — brought together the expertise of regulatory, law enforcement, and investigative officials from across the government, culminating in a comprehensive analysis of specific money laundering methods, patterns of abuse, geographical concentrations, and the associated legal and regulatory regimes.

2007 National Money Laundering Strategy: <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/docs/nmls.pdf>

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp386.htm>

12. *May 03, Federal Computer Week* — **USDA will take years to clean SSNs from systems.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) may take several years to scrub all unnecessary Social Security numbers from systems or replace systems containing the personal identifiers to better protect the sensitive information of farmers and ranchers who do business with the agency, Charles Christopherson Jr., USDA's chief financial officer, told lawmakers. USDA last month discovered through the complaint of a loan recipient that it had inadvertently made public the Social Security and/or employer identification numbers of 38,700 grant and loan recipients. The data was publicly available through the Federal Assistance Awards Data System, which the Census Bureau manages. Nonprofit, university and state Websites, such as fedspending.org, reposted the information, he said. The nine-digit Social Security or employer ID numbers were embedded in 15-digit federal award identifier numbers. USDA formulated the makeup of these identifiers decades ago, Christopherson told the House Agriculture Committee. "It was not readily apparent when viewing the aggregated data that these were Social Security numbers," he said. USDA immediately redacted the numbers from the system after the April 13 discovery. It will take years to replace all the USDA award numbers with new unique identifiers.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article102623-05-03-07-Web>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *May 06, CNN* — **Aviation official: Kenyan airline wreckage found.** The wreckage of the Kenya Airways plane that disappeared early Saturday morning, May 5, has been found in Cameroon, a senior aviation official told CNN. The wreckage was seen from the air shortly before nightfall Sunday, some 15 miles (25 kilometers) southeast of Douala, the Cameroon city where Kenya Airways Flight 507 had taken off shortly after midnight on Saturday, according to Celestine Ngoue, the General Inspector of Cameroon's Civil Aviation Authority. He said rescue teams were trying to reach the site in an inaccessible area of swamps and forest, but may not be able to do so until first light Monday. Ngoue said some 200 rescue workers were on standby in Douala. The Boeing 737 was carrying at least 114 crew and passengers from 25 nations. The people on board included one American, five Britons, one Swiss, one Swede, six Chinese, and 15 Indians. The remainder were Africans, including at least 35 from Cameroon and at least nine from Kenya, according to airline figures. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board said Saturday it was sending a team to assist the government of Cameroon in its investigation.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/africa/05/06/kenya.plane/index.html>

14.

May 04, Boston Globe — **FAA approves Logan taxiway.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) gave final approval Thursday, May 3, to a controversial 9,300-foot taxiway in the middle of Logan International Airport's maze of runways, a project designed to reduce the danger of plane collisions, cut travel delays, and diminish ground noise. The \$55 million taxiway, which will take about two years to construct, was one of the major safety recommendations after a spate of near-collisions and other incidents on Logan's runways in 2004 and 2005. Logan recorded the most such incidents of any U.S. airport over that period; the closest call came on June 9, 2005, when two commercial jets carrying a total of 448 passengers and crew came within 106 vertical feet of colliding after being allowed to take off on intersecting runways. Massachusetts Port Authority officials said the taxiway, which will run from northeast to southwest between two parallel runways, will reduce the chance of such incidents by allowing Logan tower controllers to move planes in a more coordinated fashion and by not forcing planes to taxi as far to terminals. Logan has about 1,250 daily departures and ranks as the nation's 17th busiest airport.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/05/04/faa_oks_logan_taxiway/

15. *May 04, Associated Press* — **American Airlines pilots seek raise.** American Airlines pilots asked the company Thursday for a 30.5 percent pay raise plus signing bonuses, which union leaders said would make up for pay cuts that the employees accepted in 2003. The pilots' union put the cost of the raises at \$450 million a year and said signing bonuses would be a one-time expense of \$400 million. One union official suggested the costs could be met with "fairly minimal" fare increases. A company spokesperson said the pilots' proposal had to be balanced against American's labor costs, which she said are higher than those of other carriers. American's 12,000 pilots -- who earn \$136,000 a year on average, according to the company -- are working under a concession-laden deal that employees approved to keep the airline out of bankruptcy four years ago. That contract, which can be revamped next May, included 23 percent pay cuts. American expects to begin negotiations with mechanics and other ground workers this fall and with flight attendants early next year.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070503/american_airlines_pilots.html?.v=8

16. *May 04, Associated Press* — **United buys stake in Aloha Airlines.** UAL Corp.'s United Airlines announced Thursday that it is acquiring a minority stake in Aloha Airlines as the two carriers seek to strengthen their partnership in the Hawaii and trans-Pacific markets. United will receive a seat on Aloha's board and could expand its share over time. Financial terms were not disclosed. The agreement helps stabilize struggling Aloha, which emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization in February 2006. The carrier has been rocked by record fuel prices and a new aggressive competitor in the interisland market. The two carriers have worked together since the early 1990s and have been code-share partners for several years. Founded in 1946, Aloha is a subsidiary of privately held Aloha Airgroup Inc. It is one of Hawaii's biggest employers with 3,482 employees and operates a fleet of 21 Boeing 737 aircraft.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070503/aloha_airlines_united.html?.v=2

17. *May 04, Department of Transportation* — **Transportation Secretary Mary Peters visits damaged MacArthur Maze.** Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters on Friday, May 4, announced an initial \$2 million in federal emergency relief will be available to California to repair the damaged MacArthur Maze overpass. The Secretary said the \$2 million is a "first installment of funds that will give construction crews the support they need to do their

jobs,” and that additional federal dollars are expected to follow once the full project cost is determined. She pledged that the federal government will continue to be a close partner with the state to do everything possible to get the bridge up and running as soon as possible. Through its Emergency Relief program, the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration reimburses states for expenses associated with emergency situations. The projects paid for by the funds include rebuilding or replacing damaged bridges, highways, lighting, guardrails and signs, creating detours and debris removal.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot4407.htm>

18. *May 04, Reuters* — Several top airlines raise U.S. fares \$5. Continental Airlines Inc., AMR Corp's American Airlines and Delta Air Lines said on Friday, May 4, they raised fares system-wide on flights in the continental United States by \$5 each way, a test of industry pricing power ahead of the summer travel season. Bankrupt Northwest Airlines also raised fares, according to Neil Bainton, chief operating officer of airfare tracker FareCompare.com. He said UAL Corp's United Airlines and US Airways Group had not matched. The increases, which come amid predictions of softening travel demand, helped push up shares in U.S. airlines. Continental spokesperson Julie King said the No. 4 U.S. carrier, which initiated the increase, made the move to offset the rising price of jet fuel, which vies with labor as an airline's biggest expense. A penny rise in the price per gallon of jet fuel adds about \$18 million to Continental's cost over the course of a year, she said. Jet fuel prices have risen about 50 cents, or nearly one third, over the last four months.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/070504/airlines_fares.html?v=2

19. *May 02, Associated Press* — Online maps updated after traffic disaster. Within 48 hours of Sunday, April 29's accident when an oil tanker exploded closing a major highway connecting San Francisco to Oakland, engineers at the major mapping sites had reprogrammed with alternate routes that added only a couple minutes to estimated drive times. That's a big improvement from a couple years ago, when routing algorithms were only updated sporadically. Digital cartographers say the response to the Oakland disaster was a promising sign of what's to come -- up-to-the-minute detours and routing technology that takes into account not only major disasters but fender benders and traffic jams. Yet, it took Yahoo nearly 39 hours to suggest new routes. Google Maps was updated late Monday night, April 30, and MapQuest Inc., a subsidiary of Time Warner Inc.'s AOL, began suggesting detours late Tuesday night.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/02/AR2007050202037.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

20. *May 05, Associated Press* — **Anthrax found in cattle herd in South Dakota.** Anthrax has been found in a Brown County, SD, cattle herd that also had the disease two years ago, officials said. One animal died and the rest of the herd is vaccinated, said state Veterinarian Sam Holland. The dead animal was a replacement heifer that had not been vaccinated yet this year. The animal that died was in a pasture with about 50 other cattle, Holland said. The Brown County case illustrates the need for producers to vaccinate their cattle before turning them out to pasture this spring, said Russ Daly, a South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension veterinarian. Daly said a SDSU survey conducted after the 2005 grazing season, in which an unprecedented number of anthrax cases were diagnosed, indicated that pastures in which flooding was present might be more likely to have anthrax cases than those that were not flooded.

Source: <http://www.hpj.com/archives/2007/may07/may7/Anthraxfoundincaattleherd.cfm?login=true>

21. *May 04, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **USDA revises its federal order regarding the movement of live fish susceptible to viral hemorrhagic septicemia.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service revised today its Federal Order on viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), a highly contagious disease of some fresh and saltwater fish, to allow for catch-and-release fishing activities because they do not unduly increase the risk of introduction and spread of VHS. The October 2006 Federal Order was established to prohibit the importation of 37 species of live fish from two Canadian provinces into the United States and the interstate movement of the same species from the eight states bordering the Great Lakes. The revision of the Federal Order will allow for the catch-and-release of VHS-susceptible fish in waters that cross state and international boundaries. These activities include, recreational fishing, tournaments, competitions, fishing derbies or other types of contests where individuals catch, compare and release live VHS-susceptible fish. Catch-and-release fishing activities do not include the movement of VHS-susceptible fish intended to be used as live bait. The revised Federal Order will remain in effect until the interim rule is published.

Modified and original emergency orders:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/aqua_culture/.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/05/vhsfedor.shtml>

22. *May 04, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **USDA releases report on National Animal Identification System pilot projects.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture Friday, May 4, published a final report on a variety of pilot projects conducted throughout 2004 to test technologies and procedures recommended for use with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Many of the projects tested the system in real-world scenarios, integrating animal identification and movement reporting into everyday commerce. The results provide valuable information about the day-to-day use of animal identification and tracing technology. Key lessons learned from the projects include: The retention rate of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags is much higher than anticipated; existing animal health and marketing programs can be an effective, producer-friendly means of collecting data for NAIS; workable options are available for producers who want to identify their animals electronically without investing in reader equipment; the use of electronic identification allows for more accurate and efficient recordkeeping; the use of RFID at auction markets can improve animal welfare and human safety; identification used for NAIS can support other programs, including

value-added opportunities.

Pilot Project Report: http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/documents/plans_reports/PilotProjectReportFINAL05-01-2007.pdf

Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/05/animal_id_pilot.shtml

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Food Sector

23. *May 05, Baltimore Sun* — Food imports called safe. Federal investigators believe they have now traced all of the sources of contaminated food supplies from China, according to the nation's new food safety czar, who said Friday, May 4, that the U.S. government needs to move in new directions to protect food supplies. Despite publicity about tainted shipments from overseas, Dr. David W.K. Acheson said Americans shouldn't fear eating imported foods. Acheson said investigators have made significant progress in tracing the tainted ingredient from China that is believed to have killed cats and dogs in this country and entered other animal feed products. He said that Americans should not worry about serving pet food to their dogs and cats. Acheson said the search for the pet food contaminant is "virtually closed" and investigators have a "very good handle" on its distribution. Government officials say the threat to humans is extremely low. Inspectors are redirecting their efforts into checking all vegetable protein shipments from China and visiting American importers to test ingredients and make sure the firms know who made them.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/health/bal-te.foodczar05may05.0.6717023.story?coll=bal-health-headlines>

24. *May 05, Associated Press* — Twenty million chickens held because of feed. Federal officials on Friday, May 4, placed a hold on 20 million chickens raised for market in several states because their feed was mixed with pet food containing an industrial chemical. The Agriculture Department, the Food and Drug Administration (USDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency are overseeing a risk assessment to determine whether the chickens would pose a threat to human health if eaten, USDA spokesperson Keith Williams said. The assessment may be completed as early as Monday. The 20 million chickens represent a tiny fraction of the nine billion chickens raised each year in the U.S. Meat from the birds can't go into commercial use without the USDA's inspection seal, which is being withheld until the risk assessment is completed. Which states have chicken producers affected by the hold will be announced later, Williams said. State agriculture officials as well as chicken manufacturers were being contacted as the agencies determine the extent of the problem. As of Friday, no melamine had been detected in the feed used by larger manufacturers, Williams said. However, because investigators know some of the tainted pet food was used in that feed, officials still placed a hold on the birds, he said.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070505/pet_food_recall.html?v=2

25. *May 03, Delta Farm Press* — Illegal antibiotics found in Chinese catfish. Mississippi's Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Lester Spell has put a "stop-sale order" on some imported Chinese catfish in Mississippi grocery stores. The action was taken Tuesday, May 1, in accordance with the Retail Food Sanitation Law due to adulteration from banned antibiotics. Laboratory tests, Spell said, have confirmed the presence of ciprofloxacin and enrofloxacin,

drugs in the fluoroquinolones family. The catfish were being sold in the following grocery stores: Save-A-Lot in Pontotoc and Houston, Sunflower Food Store in Quitman, and Aultman's Super Value in Forest. Currently, all samples of the foreign catfish tested by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce have shown the presence of a banned substance, and similar laboratory findings have recently been reported in Alabama. "Our authority is limited to retail grocery stores," Spell said. "We will continue testing for illegal substances and initiate fines for violations that are found. There is the possibility that these same adulterated fish are being offered to customers at hospitals, public schools, nursing homes, and public restaurants." Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/news/070503-antibiotics-catfish/>

26. May 03, Canadian Food Inspection Agency — Canadian consumers cautioned to inspect powdered infant formula cans. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Abbott Nutrition are advising the public that an unauthorized distributor has supplied pharmacies and retailers in the Montreal area with 900-gram Similac Advance Step 2 powdered infant formula cans bearing a false, over-stickered lot number and expiration date. Abbott applies the expiration date and lot number information directly onto the bottom of its cans in ink — and does not use stickers for this purpose. There have been no reported illnesses associated with the consumption of the product involved in this action. Correctly labeled Similac Advance Step 2 has not been affected — nor has any other Abbott Nutrition product. Abbott is working with authorities, as well as its retail and pharmacy customers, to identify the over-stickered product and remove it from the market.

Source: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2007/200_70503e.shtml

27. May 03, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — SmartPak Canine voluntarily recalls LiveSmart Adult Lamb and Brown Rice Formula. SmartPak Canine executed a voluntary nationwide recall on all lots of LiveSmart Adult Lamb and Brown Rice food. This product tested positive for presence of melamine. The LiveSmart Lamb formula is only sold in portion-paks shipped straight to the consumer's home each month, so there are no bags of potentially affected product on store shelves anywhere in the country. At the time the recall was initiated, there had not been any ill effects reported in dogs. The company is presently investigating the source of the contamination in conjunction with its contract manufacturer, Chenango Valley Pet Food. The LiveSmart Adult Lamb formula does not contain rice protein concentrate nor wheat gluten. All the meat and vegetable matter, with the exception of New Zealand lamb, is of U.S. origin. It appears that the product may have been cross contaminated at the Chenango plant by a prior batch of food unassociated with SmartPak that contained an ingredient that had been contaminated with melamine.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/smartpak05_07.html

28. May 03, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — Galliker Dairy issues a product recall on half-gallons of Healthy Chekd Calcium Enriched Fat Free Milk. Galliker Dairy Company of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, is recalling half-gallon packages of Galliker's Healthy Chekd Calcium Enriched Fat Free Milk because they are over-fortified with Vitamin A. High levels of Vitamin A can be harmful to people with a Vitamin A sensitivity. Only products coded May 14, 2007 are affected. The product comes in a 64-ounce (One Half-Gallon), plastic package marked with the code date on the front of the package. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this problem. The recall was initiated after a chemical test indicated that over-fortification occurred. All distribution was contained within the state of Pennsylvania.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/galliker205_07.html

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Water Sector

29. *May 02, Associated Press* — **Correction: Operator error led to water contamination in Spencer, Massachusetts.** (Article summary misstated the location of the water contamination when published last week. The contamination happened in Massachusetts, not Pennsylvania.) State officials said workers and a faulty alarm system are to blame for an excess of lye that was released into the public water supply in Spencer, MA, two weeks ago, leading about 100 people to seek medical treatment. Lye, or sodium hydroxide, is regularly added to the water to help maintain a proper balance of acidity. But Martin Suuberg, a regional director for the state Department of Environmental Protection, said a system that dilutes the chemical was switched from automatic to manual while a leak was being repaired at the town's water treatment plant. Suuberg said two workers failed to switch the system back to automatic, and 34 gallons of undiluted lye went into the water. The operators have been reassigned by the town and temporarily replaced by a private contractor. The chemical release triggered alarms, but Suuberg said a system that should have alerted other operators to the problem was apparently not working.

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=198177>

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Public Health Sector

30. *May 04, Nature* — **Maggots eat up resistant bacteria.** The drug-resistant bug MRSA has a new adversary — the maggot. A quarter of all people with diabetes are at risk of foot ulcers, because of the reduced blood circulation caused by the damaging effects of high blood glucose. These lesions often become infected. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) are becoming increasingly common — and consequently increasingly hard to treat. So Andrew Boulton at Manchester University in the UK decided to turn his attention to maggots. A small initial trial, published this February, showed considerable success. "Larval therapy" (the polite term for maggot treatment) was excellent for shifting MRSA infected tissue: in 12 out of 13 patients, their wounds healed after between three and five applications of maggots, each lasting four to five days. The charity Diabetes UK has now given Boulton \$195,000 to test maggots versus two other treatments: silver-containing dressings and a biogun. Boulton is also collaborating with microbiologists to find out how the treatment works. The maggots might secrete an antibacterial goo, or they might be just devouring the infected flesh. Boulton has noticed that the MRSA infection is highly concentrated around the maggots — rather like iron filings around a magnet, he says.

Source: <http://www.nature.com/news/2007/070430/full/070430-13.html>

31. *May 04, Reuters* — **WHO moves to boost online data of clinical trials.** The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday, May 4, it was improving access online to data on clinical trials in the wake of high-profile cases of drugs being tested with possibly harmful side effects.

A new Website aims to help researchers, doctors and patients obtain reliable information on high-quality clinical trials, it said in a statement. Currently a "significant proportion" of trial research is never published, meaning doctors can lack information about treatment options, according to the United Nations agency. Another problem is the selective reporting of clinical trial findings, which can end up being misleading, WHO officials say. Initially, data from 50,000 clinical trials provided by three registers — in Britain, Australia/New Zealand and the United States — have been put on the WHO site.

New WHO Website: <http://www.who.int/trialsearch/>

Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/174819: ylt=Ak1TXdIkJDDnARYd2N1_ezgWmxbAB

- 32. *May 03, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy* — **CDC offers advice on citizen use of masks, respirators.**** Though there is little scientific evidence to go on, wearing a surgical face mask may make sense for people who have to go into crowded public places during an influenza pandemic, federal health officials said Thursday, May 3. Furthermore, people who care for a pandemic flu patient at home or have other close contact with sick people in a pandemic should consider wearing an N-95 respirator, a more elaborate type of mask designed to stop virus-sized particles, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advised. CDC officials said avoiding crowded conditions and infected people are the most important precautions in a pandemic, but masks and respirators may provide additional protection. Standard precautions such as hand hygiene and social distancing should also be used, officials said. In presenting the CDC guidance Thursday, Dr. Julie Gerberding, CDC director, said the agency is doing research to learn more about the role of masks and respirators in blocking flu viruses, but the results won't be available for months or years.

CDC press release: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/2007/r070503.htm>

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/may0307masks.html>

- 33. *May 03, Thai News Agency* — **Health alert as dengue cases rise in Thailand.**** Thailand's Ministry of Public Health is on full alert to prevent the spread of dengue fever after the disease claimed four people's lives so far this year, and the number of dengue fever patients nationwide has risen to 6,000. The focus of the outbreak is in Trat province, and in the southernmost provinces along the Malaysian border. Trat has almost five times the frequency of the disease. Earlier than usual rains has meant that dengue is a greater concern this year than before. The number of dengue fever patients is normally higher from May to August due to the rainy season. So far there have been 6,070 dengue fever patients in the first four months of this year. The nationwide ratio amounted to nearly 10 patients per 100,000 persons in the population, he said. However, almost 1,000 new dengue fever cases have been reported in the past two weeks. Source: http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking_news/breakingnews.php?id=118508

- 34. *May 03, 9 News (CO)* — **Plague unusual in Colorado metro area.**** Not since 1968 has the City of Denver had to deal with an outbreak of plague in tree squirrels. But Thursday afternoon, May 3, 15 of the 85 squirrels tested by the state had tested positive for the bacteria. Most of them came from in and around City Park. "To find (plague) in the city is a bit unusual," said John Pape, an epidemiologist with the state. Last year, 25 counties in the state reported occurrences of plague. The disease typically impacts prairie dog colonies in mostly rural areas. Pape says it is not something that should be overly concerning, but it warrants caution. Dogs are fairly resistant to the disease, but people who live in the area should watch their dogs for fleas. "(Cats) can get sick and develop a sickness very similar to what we see in people," he

said. Human cases of the plague are rare in Colorado. In the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says there are usually 13 reported cases a year. Pape says interestingly enough the cases of plague this year in Denver have been found roughly in the same area they were found in 1968.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=69285>

35. *April 30, Chicago Tribune* — **'Super bug' bill targets hospitals.** Illinois is poised to become the first state to require hospitals to implement programs combating a dangerous, drug-resistant bacterium that kills thousands of people in the U.S. each year. Under a bill moving through the legislature, hospitals would be required to test for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, in all intensive-care and "at-risk" patients, such as those transferred from nursing homes. If it is detected, aggressive measures to prevent transmission would kick in. No one disputes that MRSA is a pressing health concern, but the Illinois bill has sparked considerable controversy. Critics include prominent medical specialists who argue the legislation is too prescriptive and would impair their ability to address emerging crises. Supporters include the Illinois Hospital Association and consumer advocates, who argue that hospitals have done too little to fight MRSA, putting patients' health at risk.

Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/politics/national/stories/050407dnnatinfections.373ce09.html>

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Government Sector

36. *May 04, Associated Press* — **Two Maryland students arrested after school threats.** Police charged two teenaged girls with possessing explosives after a threatening note and the discovery of a suspicious liquid led to the evacuation of a Pikesville, MD-area middle school Thursday, May 3. The students one 13, the other 14, were charged as juveniles with felony possession of an explosive or incendiary device, police said. Police found no explosive materials after a careful search of Sudbrook Middle School on Thursday. The suspicious substance, found in a locker, turned out to be water. But at least one of the girls had sent a text message describing a shooting spree at the middle school similar to the violence at Virginia Tech, shortly after the recent killing spree there, police said. And on Thursday, the mother of another student alerted authorities to a note referring to a "hit list," although no specific targets were named, police spokesperson Sgt. Vickie Warehime, said. After questioning, the girls told police they had tried without success to detonate in the school a homemade bomb made of household materials, using instructions found on the Internet.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=58293

37. *April 16, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-455: Information Technology: Numerous Federal Networks Used to Support Homeland Security Need to Be Better Coordinated with Key State and Local Information-Sharing Initiative (Report).** A key challenge in securing the homeland is ensuring that critical information collected by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) is shared in a timely manner with federal, state, and local governments and the private sector. It is important that federal networks and associated systems, applications, and data facilitate this vital information sharing. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to (1) identify

DHS and DOJ networks and Internet-based system applications that support homeland security and (2) determine whether DHS efforts associated with its Homeland Security Information Network are being coordinated with key state and local information-sharing initiatives. GAO assessed the coordination between DHS and two key state and local initiatives of the Regional Information Sharing System program. To improve coordination with state and local information sharing efforts and avoid duplication, GAO is recommending, among other things, that DHS inventory key state and local initiatives, implement coordination and collaboration practices, and ensure its efforts are consistent with the Administration's information-sharing initiative. In its written comments, DHS concurred with the above recommendations and noted actions it is taking to implement them.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07455high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-455>

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Emergency Services Sector

38. *May 04, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — President declares major disaster for Vermont. The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Friday, May 4, that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Vermont to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding during the period of April 15–21, 2007. FEMA Administrator David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the state by President Bush. The President's action makes federal funding available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms and flooding in the counties of Bennington, Caledonia, Essex, Orange, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=36017>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

39. *May 04, Security Focus* — Report: TJX thieves exploited wireless insecurities. The insecure wireless network at a Marshalls discount clothing store near St. Paul, MN, may have allowed hi-tech attackers to gain a beachhead in retail giant TJX Companies' computer network, resulting in the theft of information on at least 45.6 million credit and debit cards, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday, May 4. While TJX's other systems were upgraded to Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA), the Marshalls store's wireless network connecting credit-card processing hardware to the company's server was not, investigators working on the case told the WSJ. In January, TJX companies acknowledged that online attackers had apparently stolen credit and debit card data from its processing systems.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/496>

40.

May 04, Government Accountability Office — **GAO-07-455: Information Technology: Numerous Federal Networks Used to Support Homeland Security Need to Be Better Coordinated with Key State and Local Information-Sharing Initiatives (Report).**

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Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07455high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07455.pdf>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

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