



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 May 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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- According to the Washington Post, a GAO report released Wednesday found that the Tennessee Valley Authority is vulnerable to cyber attacks that could sabotage critical systems that provide electricity to more than 8.7 million people. This is due to the TVA's Internet-connected corporate network being linked with systems used to control power production. (See item [2](#))
- KGO 7 San Jose reports that the Communication Workers Union will allow their workers to honor the picket lines of janitors protesting high tech Bay Area companies, potentially delaying the installation and repair of data telephone and fiber optic lines. (See item [39](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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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 21, Bloomberg* – (International) **Oil rises above \$132 on U.S. supply drop, bank price forecasts.** Crude oil rose to a record above \$132 a barrel as U.S. stockpiles unexpectedly dropped and banks raised price forecasts because of supply constraints and demand growth. Crude oil for July delivery rose \$2.53, or two percent, to \$131.51 a barrel at 12:27 p.m. on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after reaching \$132.08. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=anmz7kwV7mpQ&refer=energy>

2. *May 21, Washington Post* – (Southeast) **TVA power plants vulnerable to cyber attacks, GAO finds.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is vulnerable to cyber attacks that could sabotage critical systems that provide electricity to more than 8.7 million people, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report to be released Wednesday. The GAO found that TVA’s Internet-connected corporate network was linked with systems used to control power production, and that security weaknesses pervasive in the corporate side could be used by attackers to manipulate or destroy vital control systems. The GAO also warned that computers on TVA’s corporate network lacked security software updates and anti-virus protection, and that firewalls and intrusion detection systems on the network were easily bypassed and failed to record suspicious activity. “In addition, physical security at multiple locations did not sufficiently protect critical control systems,” the GAO concluded. “As a result, systems that operate TVA’s critical infrastructures are at increased risk of unauthorized modification or disruption by both internal and external threats.” In a written response included in the GAO report, the TVA agreed with all 19 of the agency’s recommended actions.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/20/AR2008052002354.html?nav=rss_politics/fedpage
3. *May 20, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **BP report finds progress, room for improvement.** The independent monitor that BP appointed last year to oversee improvements at its five U.S. refineries says the company “appears to be making substantial progress” in safety fixes after the deadly 2005 Texas City explosion. While the 25-page report praises BP’s efforts, it also says much work remains. The report says “more focused attention” is needed in several areas: Overtime hours are high enough that they could compromise worker performance despite a revised overtime policy aimed at reducing fatigue; Refinery management must ensure that safety issues are reported to all corporate levels, not just those identified in audits; Roles and responsibilities of process safety support staff outside of refineries should be clarified.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/5793522.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *May 20, Buffalo News* – (New York) **Idle industrial plant in Niagara Falls to reopen.** New York state officials say an idle industrial plant in Niagara Falls will reopen next year as a silicon production facility. The dormant Globe Metallurgical plant will operate under the ownership of Globe Specialty Metals, a producer of metallurgical and chemical-grade silicon metal and silicon-based specialty alloys. The New York Power Authority on Tuesday aided the reopening of the plant by approving a 40-megawatt allocation of low-cost power.
Source:
<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--falls-plant0520may20,0,1168381.story>

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *May 21, Bloomberg* – (International) **Sweden police hold two on nuclear sabotage suspicion.** Swedish police detained two people for questioning on suspicion of planning sabotage against the Oskarshamn nuclear power plant in the country's southeast. Two people are in custody, said a police spokesman Wednesday. A male contract welder was caught in a security check after traces of explosives were found on a carrying bag, said operator OKG AB. The other person is also a contract employee at the plant. Police are investigating the traces, which according to OKG contained triacetone triperoxide, or TATP. "OKG has told us they think it's TATP, but until our bomb technicians get there and analyze the substance we don't know for sure," said a police spokesman. OKG alerted police shortly before 8 a.m. local time after three tests showed traces of a high-explosive substance. Part of the plant was sealed off, without disrupting operations, and the Oskarshamn 2 reactor will be searched. The substance was detected on the handle of a plastic bag the contractor was carrying. There was no bomb threat prior to today's incident, said a plant spokesman.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=acDRsE2EFDtI&refer=energy>
6. *May 21, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **Crane couldn't bear VY load.** The Vermont Yankee crane that failed May 12 when an electrical relay malfunctioned was handling the heaviest load the crane has ever had to bear. Technicians were using the crane to move a dry cask full of nuclear waste from the spent fuel pool to a storage pad when the crane failed. During mock runs conducted last month, the crane was tested but not with the full weight of an actual cask. The weight of the cask used during those test runs was between 70 and 75 percent of a fully loaded cask. There was no danger the cask would drop to the floor, said a Yankee spokesman, because the crane has a power-off switch which fully engages the holding brakes. With repairs complete and following further testing, the crane should be operational again later this week, said the director of nuclear safety assurance at Yankee. Entergy plans Wednesday to test the crane using a full-weight mock up. The crane mishap was a non-reportable incident, said a spokeswoman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Source: http://www.reformer.com/ci_9330511?source=most_viewed
7. *May 21, Patriot-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Anti-nuclear activist drops TMI license opposition.** An anti-nuclear activist who devoted much of his life to trying to shut down the Three Mile Island (TMI) nuclear station has agreed not to oppose a 20-year extension of the plant's operating license. He said he agreed to withdraw his opposition in return for certain pledges from the plant's owner Exelon Corp. The agreement calls for Exelon to: Underwrite the cost of updating the radiation monitoring system run by the activist's EFMR Monitoring Group (EFMR); Increase charitable donations to emergency providers; Continue its policy of not storing radioactive waste from other nuclear plants at TMI for at least ten years after the granting of the license extension; Not oppose the decommissioning of the Unit 2 reactor destroyed in a 1979 accident.

Source:

<http://www.pennlive.com/news/patriotnews/index.ssf?/base/news/1211336721321660.xml&coll=1&thispage=1>

8. *May 20, Associated Press* – (National) **Top U.S. official says lab security strong despite exercise.** The administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration said Tuesday he was satisfied that security vulnerabilities have been patched at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where a mock terrorist attack recently defeated security personnel during an exercise. He said the exercise underscored the need for more extensive training at each of the sites where the government conducts nuclear weapons research and maintenance. “I think that in the end analysis we failed to realize how important it actually is to do a lot more training exercises, to get people putting on all the equipment and going through their exercises,” he said. Overall, the facility was rated as effective in four key areas, but as needing improvement in four others. He emphasized that the exercise was meant to “over stress and over test” Livermore’s security, comparing it to a test of a jetliner that strains the wings until they snap off. The findings spurred an expansion of the security staff and a daily security training regimen at the lab.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_9325144?nclick_check=1

9. *May 20, World Nuclear News* – (International) **Major French-US nuclear power link.** Electricite de France, the main electrical utility in France, and Exelon have signed a five-year agreement to cooperate on nuclear power matters. The memorandum of understanding covers managerial and technical matters such as outage management, fuel operations, and equipment reliability. It specifically excludes “any joint venture or new build effort.”

Source: http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/C-Major_French-US_nuclear_power_link-2005085.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *May 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Worker charged with Chinook vandalism.** An assembly line worker charged with vandalizing a military helicopter at a Boeing plant was upset about a job transfer and cut a bundle of about 70 electrical wires during his last shift on the Chinook line, federal investigators said Tuesday. The man had worked at the plant near Philadelphia for about 18 months before his arrest Monday, nine days after the H-47 Chinook aircraft was disabled. He continued to work at the plant, until meeting with federal investigators Monday, when he admitted cutting the wires on the morning of May 10, according to an arrest affidavit. Authorities say he is not currently a suspect in a separate act of vandalism on another helicopter at the plant. A suspicious part was found in the second helicopter that was vandalized at another facility. “The focus of the investigation continues to be on one or more Boeing employees,” federal investigators said in a statement. The Chinook is the Army’s workhorse aircraft, used to move troops and supplies. Boeing is producing new Chinooks for the Army, as well as updating older models.

Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/05/ap_chinook_vandalism_052008/

11. *May 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Ex-professor charged in fraud over UAV work.** A retired University of Tennessee professor was indicted Tuesday by a federal grand jury on charges of conspiring to provide military secrets to a Chinese graduate student. The professor emeritus who headed the school's Plasma Sciences Lab was charged in an 18-count indictment along with a university research spinoff company with violating the Arms Export Control Act and trying to defraud the Air Force. The charges center on work done by the retired professor, the company, and the graduate student on an Air Force contract between 2004 and 2006 to develop flight controls for weapons-deploying unmanned aircraft. The government says they failed to get prior permission to involve a foreign national. According to the indictment, the retired professor and the company "engaged in a conspiracy to defraud the U.S. Air Force and transmit export-controlled technical data... to one or more foreign nationals, including a citizen of the People's Republic of China."

Source: http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/05/ap_professor_charged_052108/

12. *May 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Ex-translator gets 10 years over secret papers.** A former Arabic translator for the Army in Iraq has been sentenced to ten years in prison for being caught with secret documents. The defendant received the term Monday in Brooklyn federal court. He had pleaded guilty to possessing national defense documents and to using an alias while becoming a U.S. citizen. Authorities say his true identity remains unknown and his motive unclear. Using his false identity, the defendant was hired by a contractor in 2003 as a translator for an intelligence unit of the 82nd Airborne Division stationed in the Sunni Triangle. In a 2005 raid, authorities discovered the documents – some marked "secret" – in his New York apartment. Court papers say one document included precise information about U.S. weaponry and targets. Another detailed 82nd Airborne strategies for dealing with tribal groups in Iraq.

Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/05/ap_extranslator_052008/

13. *May 20, AllHeadlineNews* – (National) **Pentagon, FAA website overlays military bases on Google maps.** In an era of increasingly accessible information about America's defenses, the Federal Aircraft Administration (FAA) has launched a website overlaying every U.S. military base on top of the popular Internet application Google Maps. According to the U.S. Defense Department, SeeAndAvoid.org "offers a centralized, credible website for civilian pilots and military safety officers. The site offers reciprocal information and education on airspace, visual identification, aircraft performance and mutual hazards to safe flight, with the ultimate goal of eliminating midair collisions and reducing close calls." The site also pinpoints the location of Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine military installations across the country. Zooming in on a map marker gives the user a detailed satellite image of the base, and clicking on a location brings up information on the types of planes and squadrons based there. While the detail is both remarkable and otherwise accessible, this is the first time the Pentagon has made locating the bulk of America's military installations so effortless.

Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7011012360>

14. *May 19, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Army installing \$1.5B worth of sensor towers.** By the end of next year, the U.S. Army wants to have every company in Iraq and Afghanistan equipped with an eight- to ten-story tower studded with cameras, electro-optical/infrared sensors, and radar to scour the combat area for insurgent activities, service officials said. Some 200 battlezone companies already have one of the 107-foot Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) towers, with more than 300 on the way. “By the end of 2009, we will have everyone fielded. CENTCOM has determined that this is their No. 2 priority, right behind MRAP,” or mine resistant ambush protected vehicles, said an official who directs anti-roadside-bomb training for the Army Asymmetric Warfare Office. The towers have already helped to find and destroy bomb emplacements, he said. They are part of a two-year, \$1.5 billion program called Base Expeditionary Targeting and Surveillance Sensors-Combined (BETSS-C). “BETSS-C is one-third ISR, one-third battle command, and one-third force protection,” he said. The Army began putting RAID towers into Iraq and Afghanistan in 2003, but began networking them only when BETSS-C gear began arriving this year.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3539144&c=AME&s=LAN>

15. *May 19, Defense News* – (National) **The potential of ZnO nanotubes.** Nanotechnology promises to produce a generation of much more sensitive sniper-spotters. The new technology uses zinc oxide (ZnO) nanowires. The president of Magnolia Optical Technologies plans to use nanowires to build battlefield sensors for detecting the ultraviolet light generated by gunshots in order to pinpoint the location of snipers. In April, Magnolia was awarded a \$500,000 contract by the U.S. Army and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to continue work on the sniper sensors. Sensors that use ZnO nanowires may be thousands of times more sensitive than infrared sensors, said a leading nanotechnology researcher. Magnolia’s president said he hopes to have a prototype ready for the Army as early as a year from now. Besides spotting snipers, such sensors are expected to prove valuable for detecting other battlefield sources of ultraviolet light such as missiles and jet aircraft.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3538523&c=FEA&s=TEC>

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *May 21, Bucks County Courier Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Phone scam targets Bucks County workers.** Bucks County, Pennsylvania, employees are the target of an apparent phone scam promising them low-interest home loans. Phone messages received Thursday and Friday by county employees promised low-rate home loans to county employees. But no such program exists. Spokesmen for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and its investigative arm, the Office of the Inspector General, said they were unaware of any nationwide phone scam. An HUD spokesman said the Federal Housing Administration insures only home loans. The loans themselves are made by conventional lenders.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/111-05212008-1537236.html>

17. *May 21, Courier Post Online* – (New Jersey) **Hudson City Savings Bank customers**

fall prey to scam. By the time officials at Hudson City Savings Bank were notified of a scam against their customers Tuesday, it was too late. A network of scammers was calling New Jersey residents, including some from south Jersey, on Tuesday morning, attempting to steal money from bank accounts and credit cards, said one of the bank's senior vice presidents. The bank, which is based in Paramus, Bergen County, has branches in Cinnaminson, Cherry Hill, Haddonfield, and Woodbury Heights. In an automated telephone message, the scammers told people their bank accounts were frozen. To unfreeze the account, the scammers told people they had to enter credit card or debit card numbers, along with personal identification numbers. The information was put to use "almost immediately," the bank official said, and officials had traced a number of unauthorized withdrawals to Spain. He said the bank was working with an international security firm to stop the phone calls. But he did not expect immediate success. Tracking the scammers is difficult and often time-consuming, he said, especially when more than one phone number is in use. The official said noncustomers also received the phone calls.

Source:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080521/NEWS01/805210417/1006>

18. *May 20, Tampa Tribune* – (National) **Telemarketing fraud probe targets Clearwater company.** When federal authorities went to the "USA Financial Retail Store" in Clearwater, Florida, they discovered a telemarketing boiler room inside with about 15 people. The real name of the business is American Financial Card Inc., according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and its staff persuaded people over the telephone to pay a few hundred dollars up front for a credit card that often never arrived. Losses to American Financial customers over a two- to three-year period are an estimated \$15 million, said the regional director of the FTC's Southeast Region. The enterprise was one of many cited Tuesday as federal, state, and local authorities gathered at various news conferences throughout the nation to announce the results of Operation Tele-Phoney, described by the FTC as one of the largest telemarketing crack-downs in history. Nationwide, and sometimes working with Canada, authorities have initiated 180 enforcement actions against telemarketing companies, involving more than 500,000 victims and more than \$100 million in losses. Forty-two people have been indicted, 32 have entered pleas, and 17 people have been sentenced, the FTC official said. Of the 180 actions, the FTC has initiated action in 13 cases. Of those 13, three were taken against enterprises in Pinellas County – American Financial, which has been put into receivership, plus a company in Clearwater and another one in Pinellas Park, authorities said. All three ventures asked people to pay money up front for credit cards, the official said. The telemarketers purchased mailing lists of people with poor credit histories, then took advance fees directly out of victims' checking accounts, said the operations manager for Pinellas County Justice & Consumer Services. "Telemarketing is not only annoying, but it can be deceptive and sometimes blatantly illegal," said an Attorney General in a prepared statement.

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2008/may/20/telemarketing-fraud-probe-targets-clearwater-compa/>

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Transportation Sector

19. *May 21, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Report: Money woes may have led to bridge collapse.** A new report says money worries may have led to bad maintenance decisions for the Minneapolis bridge that collapsed and killed 13 people last August. The report released Wednesday also says that decision-making at the Minnesota Department of Transportation was sometimes unclear and expert advice not effectively used. The report was commissioned by the state Legislature to determine if any policies could be changed to prevent future disasters.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080521/ap_on_re_us/bridge_collapse;_ylt=ApK32nZLUCPsJOirPovmNSs0NUE

20. *May 21, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Officials say I-74 bridge closed 2-3 months.** State transportation officials expect part of eastbound Interstate 74 in southwest Ohio to be closed two to three months due to bridge damage. Authorities say a tractor-trailer's oversized load broke away and slammed into three supports under an I-74 overpass at I-275 Tuesday evening. The trailer, which was carrying an 80-ton railroad locomotive, severely damaged three columns, forcing road closure west of Cincinnati. The tractor-trailer was on the ramp from westbound I-74 to southbound I-275. Motorists are being rerouted today in the heavily traveled area. It brings motorists from Indiana and also is often used to bypass Cincinnati to reach the international airport in Hebron, Kentucky.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-oh-bridgedamaged.0,982033.story>

21. *May 20, KCBS 740 AM San Francisco* – (California) **Heavy security greets Oakland Ferry passengers.** Passengers boarding some Oakland-Alameda, California, ferry routes were screened, as bomb-sniffing dogs patrolled the parking lots and Coast Guard helicopters flew overhead. Once onboard, passengers shared the ride with members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force, federal air marshals, and the Alameda County Sheriff's bomb squad. "We want to send a message to the public that we're here in different venues, in different modes of transportation to keep you safe," said the federal security director for Oakland with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). If a ferry that transports a half million passengers a year across the Bay does not seem like a probable target of terrorism, he said that perception is exactly why sheriff and police boats during their runs. The TSA protects not only airplanes, but rail lines and pipelines. Its program of inter-agency cooperation is known by the acronym VIPER, Visual Intermodal Prevention and Response. The idea is to make passengers, and potential terrorists, see in no uncertain terms that so-called soft-targets are better protected than most people realize.

Source: <http://www.kcbs.com/Heavy-Security-Greets-Oakland-Ferry-Passengers/2222088>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *May 20, KEZI 9 Eugene* – (Oregon) **Anthrax scare at Symantec in Springfield.** Employees at Symantec in Springfield, Oregon, were on lock-down Tuesday after a suspicious letter containing white powder caused an anthrax scare in the mail room. The letter included a note, indicating that the powder was anthrax. The employees were released just before 8:00 p.m. Later the substance was found to be granulated sugar. Source: <http://www.kezi.com/article.aspx?id=36590>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *May 21, USAgNet* – (National) **Early Southern Scab reports mixed.** Though Upper Midwest small grains were still being planted as of early May, some southern winter wheat and barley crops were already reaching a critical growing period in terms of possible infection by *Fusarium graminearum*, the fungus that causes Fusarium Head Blight (FHB), also known as head scab. A spot check among states found both favorable and unfavorable conditions. In some parts of eastern North Carolina, more Fusarium Head Blight is being observed than at any time since 2003, reported a small grains pathologist with USDA-ARS at North Carolina State University. In the state wheat variety trial in Beaufort County, scab incidences of 1-25 percent were recorded during the second week in May. Some of that area's commercial fields showed scab incidence levels of up to 10 percent. Virginia also received rains during head emergence this spring, and forecast maps predicted the state was at risk for FHB infection. There is a lot of variation in heading/flowering date this year, even within a region, reported an extension grains specialist with Virginia Tech. "Some producers planted and some waited; some waited quite a while for it to dry out. I suspect we will see quite a bit of variation in FHB among fields because of this," he said. Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=1211&yr=2008>
24. *May 20, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* – (National) **USDA bans slaughter of downer cattle.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture is banning the slaughter of downer cattle at meat-packing houses, closing a loophole that had allowed such cattle to enter the food supply if they passed veterinary inspection. The decision, announced Tuesday, comes after an undercover video released in January by the Humane Society of the United States showed cows too sick to stand being abused and entering the food supply at the Westland/ Hallmark slaughterhouse in Chino, California. The video prompted a 143 million-pound beef recall – the largest in the nation's history. Mostly banned from slaughter, downer cattle pose an increased risk for mad cow disease and other infections because they typically wallow in feces. Members of Congress and the national Humane Society lobbied the USDA to eliminate the exception. The meat and dairy industry last month reversed its opposition and endorsed the change. Source: http://www2.dailybulletin.com/ci_9327022
25. *May 20, USA Today* – (National) **Inhumane-handling issues halt more slaughter plants.** Thirty-four of the U.S.'s 800 livestock slaughter plants have been temporarily shut down this year because government inspectors detected inhumane handling of animals – three times the number suspended for the same reason in 2007. All the plants

resumed operation after making fixes, says the administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service. The increased suspensions do not reflect worsening conditions, but more uniform enforcement by USDA inspectors after cattle abuses were exposed in January at the Westland/Hallmark slaughterhouse in California. Acts at Westland – including moving cows with forklifts – were uncovered by an animal rights group, rather than USDA inspectors at the plant. The episode led to severe criticism of the agency and concerns that its inspectors were not properly watching plants. The 800 plants include those that slaughter cattle, pigs, and other livestock. Source: <http://www.abcnews.go.com/Health/story?id=4897449&page=1>

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Water Sector

26. *May 21, Reporter-Herald* – (Colorado) **Mining bill will protect water.** Colorado now has a law to protect water from contamination associated with in situ uranium mining. On Tuesday, the governor signed House Bill 1161. The law, which goes into effect July 1, requires mining companies to restore water to previous quality or to state standards. “The whole purpose of the bill is to protect human health, protect our groundwater supplies from contamination, and to protect personal property rights that may be impacted by this type of mining,” a state representative said. “The bill is not intended to prevent or prohibit mining. It’s simply a measure to make sure we have very stringent standards in place before mining can take place.” “Colorado has created a specialized regulatory regime for in situ uranium recovery that is the most restrictive of any state in the United States,” said the president and CEO of Powertech, a company planning on applying for an application to mine uranium in the Laramie-Fox Hills aquifer. Source: http://www.reporterherald.com/news_story.asp?id=16901

27. *May 20, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. warns SkyWest unit over dirty water facility.** U.S. health regulators have warned SkyWest Inc.'s Atlantic Southeast Airlines unit after inspectors found paint chips and other debris in drinking water equipment, according to a letter from the regulators released on Tuesday. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigators inspected the airline's Wichita, Kansas, water facility in March and found contaminated carts used to deliver water for cooking and drinking, the letter said. “This presence of sediment indicates that the water cart is not adequately maintained, flushed, and sanitized with sufficient frequency to ensure potable water is delivered to the aircraft,” the FDA wrote in a May 2 letter to the company. The FDA said it would allow the company to continue using the Wichita water facility on a provisional basis, but called for major changes to correct the problem and another inspection. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN2028185220080520>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *May 21, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **13 birds with West Nile found in Orange County in May.** Thousands of abandoned swimming pools have become breeding

grounds for mosquitoes that can carry the West Nile virus, Orange County vector control officials said Tuesday. “Thirteen birds in such a short time frame is reminiscent of 2004 conditions,” said the Orange County Vector Control science director. During that critical year, four people died in the county and 28 died statewide after becoming infected with the virus.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/print/edition/california/la-me-westnile21-2008may21,0,7470154.story>

29. *May 20, KDBC 4 El Paso* – (Texas) **El Paso nurse shortage to increase.** The University of Texas El Paso (UTEP) School of Nursing Dean says El Paso is short an estimated 600 nurses. Experts say the shortfall in nurses could grow by the thousands in just a few years. The dean of UTEP’s Nursing School, says the 65,000 Fort Bliss soldiers and their families heading to El Paso will increase the shortage. He says about 2,000 more nurses will be needed. Hospitals are now aggressively recruiting nurses by offering bonuses and tuition reimbursement. UTEP is recruiting nursing students with a ‘fast track’ program. The program allows professionals already with a degree to get a nursing degree in just 15 months.
- Source: http://www.kdbc4.com/Global/story.asp?S=8355743&nav=menu608_2_2
30. *May 19, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* – (National) **Cases of recreational water illnesses on the rise.** Outbreaks of recreational water illnesses (RWIs) in the U.S. reached a record high in 2007 and the numbers could increase in coming years. RWIs are caused by swallowing, breathing, or having contact with germs in the water of swimming pools, spas, lakes, rivers, or oceans. “The leading cause of RWI outbreaks is cryptosporidium or crypto, a chlorine-resistant parasite, primarily associated with treated swimming places, such as pools and water parks. This RWI has been a public health issue in the past and will likely pose an even bigger challenge in the future,” a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention epidemiologist said. From 2004 to 2007, the number of cryptosporidium cases tripled and the number of crypto outbreaks linked to swimming pools more than doubled. Because crypto is chlorine-resistant, it can be present even in well-maintained pools.
- Source:
http://foodconsumer.org/7777/8888/A_ffluent_D_iseases_52/051909532008_Cases_Of_Recreational_Water_Illnesses_On_The_Rise.shtml

Government Facilities Sector

31. *May 20, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **High lead levels found at site of proposed L.A. school playground.** Dangerous levels of lead have been found under a parking lot that the Los Angeles Unified School District plans to turn into playing fields for Virgil Middle School, reigniting the ire of project opponents. The district plans to move the school’s current playing fields to build an elementary school on the site. Past reports have found contaminants on the land and groundwater under the future fields, which now contain commercial property and Virgil’s teacher parking lot. Cleanup costs are expected to reach \$10 million. According to the Division of Toxic Substances Control,

lead levels at the site were found to be more than 100 times the recommended limit of 255 milligrams per kilogram in samples taken a month ago. Officials said the lead did not pose a health hazard. “There is no immediate threat of exposure to the contamination because the lead is located beneath the ground surface and is covered with gravel that serves as a barrier,” stated the agency notice sent to teachers Friday.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-lead20-2008may20,0,792005.story>

32. *May 20, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **7 injured in University of Minnesota chemical leak.** Three buildings at the University of Minnesota have reopened after a vapor leak sent seven people to the hospital. Campus police say five gallons of potassium hydroxide leaked from a large tank late Monday at a veterinary lab on the St. Paul campus. The vapor escape caused eye and throat irritation. A malfunctioning gasket was responsible. The spill closed the lab and two other veterinary buildings. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080520/ap_on_re_us/uminn_chemical_leak

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *May 21, KDKA 2 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Drill to be held today downtown.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency conducted a terror attack drill Wednesday in downtown Pittsburgh for dozens of federal, state, and local agencies. Approximately 300 participants from 42 federal, state, local, and private sector agencies participated. They were tested on how to handle emergencies, like a terror attack. Source: <http://kdka.com/local/disaster.drill.Pittsburgh.2.729056.html>
34. *May 20, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Emergency crews hold mock plane crash in Ogden.** On Tuesday 24 agencies participated in an air crash response drill, which simulated a mid-air collision of two military planes and a massive response to save dozens of victims. The drill took place at Ogden Regional Airport, and mock victims were treated there and at another site in Farmington Canyon. Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=3349271>
35. *May 19, Oak Ridger* – (Tennessee) **City, DOE celebrate fire station transfer.** Local and federal officials had a ceremony on Saturday at Oak Ridge’s newest fire station. Fire Station No. 4 is on the west end of the city on the former K-25 Site, built during World War II to enrich uranium and subsequently shuttered. The U.S. Department of Energy, which previously owned the 25,000-square foot station, transferred it to the city in January. A beefed-up Oak Ridge Fire Department has been operating at the 2.2-acre site since October 2007. The transfer will shave minutes and miles off firefighting treks to places on the west end of Oak Ridge, including a massive residential development called Rarity Ridge that is still under construction. Source: <http://www.oakridger.com/news/x1867426638/City-DOE-celebrate-fire-station-transfer>

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Information Technology

36. *May 21, Register* – (International) **Mass SQL injection hits English language websites.** Thousands of websites in China have been booby trapped with code written to download Trojan software onto visitors who run vulnerable Windows PCs. Unlike earlier rounds of SQL injection attacks the latest assaults mostly target English language sites (predominantly sites hosted in China but with a .com suffix) and purposefully avoid Chinese government sites, according to net security firm ScanSafe. The latest attacks inject an iFrame onto compromised sites that loads malicious scripts from qiqigm.com, a domain registered on 16 May. These scripts include the text “silent love china” in an apparent greeting to other Chinese hackers. The malicious code exploits well-known RealPlayer and Internet Explorer vulnerabilities to install a password-stealing Trojan that hides its presence on Windows PCs. More than 7,000 sites have been compromised in this way, reports ScanSafe’s senior security researcher. English language Hong Kong stock brokerage kgieworld.com and Kodak camera reviews at digitalcamerareview.com are among the sites hit by the drive-by download attack. The attacks are the latest in a wave of SQL injection attacks against websites that began this month. More than one group, using different sets of tools to inject attack code, is involved, according to F-Secure. The net security firm Trend Micro says two exploits used in the latest SQL injection attacks are related to Chinese-language software, suggesting miscreants are specifically targeting the Chinese speaking world.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/05/21/china_sql_injection_attack/
37. *May 20, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **IT chiefs warn of cyber-terrorism threat.** The threat of cyber-terrorism is growing and most countries are vulnerable to attacks that can shut down critical infrastructure, global experts told a conference here Tuesday. “The hard reality is that (information technology) has become a tool for cybercrime and cyberterrorism,” said a representative from the United Nations’ International Telecommunications Union. “Cybersecurity must be the cornerstone of every aspect of keeping ourselves, our countries and our world safe,” he told the conference, which the Malaysian hosts are billing as the first on cyber-terrorism and security. The U.N. official dismissed as a dangerous myth the idea that events in the virtual world have only a limited impact on the physical world, saying that technology has “changed the dynamics of terrorism.” Small groups or even individuals are capable of gaining control of millions of computers, “which can be used, for instance, to launch denial-of-service attacks on a nation’s critical infrastructure,” he said. Malaysia said it was launching a global center to combat cyber-terrorism which will provide emergency response to high-tech attacks on economies and trading systems worldwide. The center, which is expected to be built by the end of the year at the nation’s IT hub of Cyberjaya, south of Kuala Lumpur, will be funded by governments and the private sector.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080520/tc_afp/malaysiaattacksinternet
38. *May 20, Computerworld* – (National) **Phishers point scam at Apple’s iTunes.** Phishers have targeted users of Apple Inc.’s iTunes music store with sophisticated identity theft attacks for the first time, a security company said today. People began receiving spam messages yesterday telling them that they must correct a problem with their iTunes

account, said an executive at e-mail security vendor Proofpoint Inc. A link in the spam leads to a site posing as an iTunes billing update page, which asks for information, including credit card number and security code, Social Security number and mother's maiden name. The theft attempt is a new twist on the usual phishing attack, he said. "We've gotten used to seeing the usual companies and brands attacked," he said, "like PayPal, eBay and Citibank. But we've never seen Apple as the target." He also speculated that the identity thieves aimed the new attack at iTunes users because of the service's perceived demographics. "I wonder if the bad guys are thinking that [iTunes users] are younger than those for some of the other phished sites, like banks and eBay," he said. "The way that teenagers and young adults use the Internet, they show a certain level of trust or openness when they post their name and age and school on MySpace."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9087358&source=rss_news10

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: <http://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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Communications Sector

39. *May 20, KGO 7 San Jose* – (California) **Janitors picket Silicon Valley companies.**

Thousands of janitors working at the biggest Silicon Valley companies began picketing some of the signature buildings in the Silicon Valley and the Bay Area Tuesday, demanding that the tech leaders help the janitors make a livable wage. An estimated 6,000 union workers voted to strike after rejecting the latest offer from their companies. Janitors were said to be walking out of Hewlett Packard and Oracle buildings. There were no new negotiations as of Tuesday, and Teamsters refused to cross the lines in order to pick up the trash at Cisco. On Saturday, more than 6,000 members of the Service Employee International Union voted to walk out of bio tech and high tech buildings all over the Bay Area. The dispute is over health care co-payment increases and a raise. The strike began Tuesday at Yahoo and Cisco is expected to spread throughout the Bay Area. Cisco representatives issued a statement: "Please note that this is a contract dispute between a third-party service provider and its employees. This is not a dispute between Cisco and its employees." The Communication Workers Union said they will allow their workers honor the picket lines, potentially delaying the installation and repair of data telephone and fiber optic lines until the dispute is resolved.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local&id=6153583>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *May 21, BBC* – (International) **‘Dirty bomb’ warning to Olympics.** The Beijing Olympics in August could be a target for terrorists using radioactive materials, the United Nations nuclear watchdog has told the BBC. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says a group might try to release radioactivity at an Olympic venue, possibly using a “dirty bomb.” However, the IAEA says there is no specific information suggesting an imminent attack on the Beijing games. The IAEA warning comes as it conducts a training exercise in China’s capital. The agency says intelligence shows that terrorists are trying to obtain nuclear materials. “The awareness that these materials do exist in circulation is enough in itself to trigger the measures that we are now working together with the Chinese authorities to implement at the major venues of the Beijing Olympics,” said the IAEA’s head of nuclear security.
Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7412254.stm>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

41. *May 21, United Press International* – (District of Columbia) **Overhaul of D.C.’s National Mall sought.** Congress is being urged to fund a much-needed overhaul of the National Mall. Witnesses at a House subcommittee hearing say it could cost as much as \$500 million to restore the 650-acre property to its former elegance, the Washington Post reported Wednesday. The mall’s poor condition has been evident for years but only recently has an array of plans, programs, and legislation been proposed to remedy the situation.
Source:
http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Top_News/2008/05/21/overhaul_of_dcs_national_mall_sought/3586/
42. *May 20, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **State treasures on endangered list.** The entire 278-unit California state park system was named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s list of endangered landmarks. The National Trust listed the system on its annual list of 11 most endangered landmarks because of what the trust called “years of chronic underfunding and deferred maintenance.” The landmark dirigible hangar at Moffett Field in Mountain View, which the trust called “a stunning piece of California’s aviation history,” also made the list. The hangar, a giant domed structure 200 feet high, is in danger of demolition because it contains toxic substances like PCBs and asbestos, and the substances are leaking into nearby water. The hangar was built to house giant Navy airships in the 1930s. It is owned by NASA, which took over the former Moffett Naval Air Station. However, the Navy is required to clean up the toxic materials, and two years ago the Navy proposed tearing down the structure.
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/05/20/MNRM10P5QV.DTL>

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Dams Sector

43. *May 21, Times* – (International) **China works flat out to prevent dam flood.** Chinese engineers are working to try to stop thousands of people from being flooded out by water in a dam that was created by landslides during the earthquake. The swelling lake that has risen to 70m (230ft) would threaten, if it burst, the five million residents of Mianyang County, home to the second-biggest city in southwestern Sichuan province. It is expected that the water will be released to avert a collapse. A Wilson Professor in Hazard and Risk at Durham University said that if the water were to seep through and erode the barrier, it could send bricks, trees, and other debris downstream. “You can’t be sure that the town below would be destroyed, but it would certainly be a very dangerous place to be,” he said. At one dam in Fuxing Township, a team of engineers from northeastern Liaoning Province was using trucks and diggers to shore up a small reservoir that had sprung a leak during the tremor. The chief engineer at the State Electricity Regulatory Commission has said that several dams weakened by the earthquake are under 24-hour observation for signs of collapse and may not be able to withstand strong aftershocks or flooding. “The earthquake this time has caused damage at various levels to reservoirs and dams. Safety experts have been put in place to monitor the operation of the dams 24 hours a day.”

Source: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article3972785.ece>

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

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

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