



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 October 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- The Associated Press reported an explosion at a Gulf gasoline facility on October 23 that rocked a neighborhood outside Puerto Rico’s capital, causing minor injuries, forcing evacuations as firefighters raced to prevent additional blasts, and causing the diversion of air traffic away from the area. (See item [1](#))
- According to the Wall Street Journal, the Chinese government is ratcheting up its cyberspying operations against the U.S., a congressional advisory panel found on October 23, citing an example of a carefully orchestrated campaign against one U.S. company that appears to have been sponsored by Beijing. (See item [9](#))

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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. *October 23, Associated Press* – (Puerto Rico) **Explosion rocks Gulf facility in Puerto Rico.** An explosion at a Gulf gasoline facility on October 23 rocked a neighborhood outside Puerto Rico’s capital, causing minor injuries and forcing evacuations as firefighters raced to prevent additional blasts. Several columns of black smoke and

flames were rising from the Caribbean Petroleum Corp., a gasoline warehouse and distribution center on San Juan's bay that owns the Gulf brand in this U.S. Caribbean territory. FBI agents on the scene were among those investigating what caused the blast, which struck around 12:30 a.m. ET, according to the police chief. A police helicopter that flew over the area confirmed that 11 of more than 30 tanks had exploded, he said. Firefighters were planning to chill the remaining tanks in an effort to keep them from exploding. Dozens of fuel trucks were also being moved from the area. The fuel company told authorities that all of its employees who were at the plant are safe, a firefighter said. A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said the agency put a temporary flight restriction in place over the area because of smoke. The flames, which could be seen from miles away, intensified several hours after the explosion and the police chief said it would likely take several days to put out the fire. Environmental authorities urged nearby residents to keep their windows shut to avoid potentially dangerous smoke.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33445763/ns/world_news-americas/

2. *October 23, Post-Tribune* – (Indiana) **Tanker explodes on Indianapolis highway ramp**. A liquid propane tanker exploded on an Indianapolis highway ramp on Thursday, shooting a fireball of flames and black smoke into the sky and closing a section of one of the city's major expressways for what could be weeks. The tanker's driver was taken to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries, state police said. Three others received minor injuries and seven other vehicles were damaged by the explosion, police said. The fire ball from the accident engulfed the overpass, nearby billboards, and a communications tower. The explosion closed Interstates 69 and 465 on the northeast side of the city. Other witnesses said they had to put their cars in reverse to escape the flames, which charred billboards and a cellular phone tower. I-69 reopened after two hours, but a State Police Sergeant said I-465 would remain closed for repairs. A pillar holding up the east side of the I-465 overpass was knocked over, and two steel girders on the west side of the overpass also sustained damage, he said. "We're not talking hours, we're talking weeks" for repairs, the Sergeant said. Indiana Department of Transportation engineers were inspecting the bridges and surrounding roadways on Thursday for possible damage.

Source: <http://www.post-trib.com/news/elections/1841312,Tanker-explodes-1023.article>

3. *October 22, ProPublica* – (New York and Pennsylvania) **New York drilling study 'A big step forward'**. New York's recently released review of the environmental risks posed by natural gas production in the Marcellus Shale offers the clearest picture yet of the chemicals used in the drilling process called hydraulic fracturing. The document makes public the names of 260 chemicals, more than eight times as many as Pennsylvania state regulators have compiled. The list is the most complete released by any state or federal agency and could help answer concerns about hydraulic fracturing in Congress and in states where gas drilling has increased in recent years. The review also takes another dramatic step by proposing that in certain situations companies that drill in New York be required to report the concentrations of the chemicals they use to state regulators, thereby creating a suite of information that environmental scientists

say is essential to investigating water pollution from drilling. New York would be the first state to make such a demand. The industry has been reluctant to release information about the chemicals it uses, because it considers them a proprietary trade secret. While New York has made the names of the chemicals public, it seems likely that the data about their concentration will be shared only with state officials. The 800-page environmental impact assessment also proposes a slew of safeguards for well construction, waste disposal and water protection. If those rules are finalized after the ongoing public review period, New York's environmental protections for gas drilling would be among the strongest in the nation. "In a number of areas these regulations are more stringent than in other states," said a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. "As commendable as that is, and wanting to give the department credit where credit is due, the bar set in most other states is so abysmally low, it still begs the question of whether stronger is strong enough."

Source: <http://www.propublica.org/feature/new-york-drilling-study-a-big-step-forward-1022>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *October 23, Scranton Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. fines Cabot \$56K for 3 chemical spills in Susquehanna County.** The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has fined Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation for a series of three chemical spills in less than a week at a site in Susquehanna County where it is drilling for natural gas. The state's environmental oversight agency said Thursday that Cabot must pay \$56,650 for violating the Clean Streams Law, Solid Waste Management Act and Oil and Gas Act. Last week, the department allowed the Houston-based company to resume hydraulic fracturing of its gas wells in the county three weeks after it ordered Cabot to stop performing the process until it developed new pollution prevention and engineering plans. That order shut down the crucial step of fracturing or "fracking" the gas-rich Marcellus Shale with water, sand and chemicals that is necessary to release gas trapped in the rock. The three spills, on September 16 and 22 at the Heitsman 4H well, all involved a Halliburton-brand lubricant gel mixed with water that is injected underground at high pressure to break apart the shale. About 8,400 gallons of the mixture were spilled and up to 1,900 gallons leaked into a nearby wetland and Stevens Creek. Cabot's engineering study showed that an unusually high 240-foot difference in elevation between the field of water tankers and the Heitsman well pad likely caused enough pressure to rupture pipe couplings and hoses that caused the spills. The company proposed changes to its operations to help prevent further releases.

Source:

http://www.scrantontimes.com/news/pa_fines_cabot_56k_for_3_chemical_spills_in_susquehanna_county

5. *October 22, Channel 3000* – (Wisconsin) **Police respond to acid spill In Juneau.** About 25 gallons of hydrochloric acid spilled at a business in Juneau on Thursday. Police responded to the Sensient Flavors plant, where the spill occurred. The

director of corporate communications for Sensient, said the spill of 25 gallons was much less than the amount of 250 gallons that was originally reported by authorities. A police official said that no evacuations were necessary and no injuries were reported, and that there was no need for a hazmat team. The company director said that Sensient worked with the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to clean the spill, and that DNR officials determined that the spill posed no risk to people or the environment. Source: <http://www.channel3000.com/news/21393194/detail.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *October 23, Mid Hudson News* – (New York) **All sirens work at Indian Point.** A test of the new warning sirens in the Indian Point nuclear power plant Thursday couldn't have been any better. All 172 sirens sounded, said an Entergy spokesman. That contrasts with last month, when several of the sirens failed. "We've had upwards of 95 percent on most of our tests," he said. "This one is 100 percent and that is what we strive for on our tests." The sirens are located in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Orange counties within a 10 mile radius of the plant. Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2009/October09/23/IP_siren_test-23Oct09.html

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. *October 23, Reliable Plant* – (Ohio) **OSHA fines Ohio steel mill for safety and health violations.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited steel mill Republic Engineered Products Inc. in Lorain, Ohio, with one alleged willful and one alleged repeat citation of federal workplace safety and health standards. Proposed fines total \$82,500. OSHA began a follow-up safety inspection at the Lorain site in April to verify that previous violations had been corrected and that the company remained in compliance with OSHA standards. The inspection revealed a willful violation for fall hazards and a repeat violation for failure to conduct inspections necessary for the control of lead exposure. Republic Engineered Products Inc. previously has been inspected by OSHA 44 times nationwide since 1991, including three fatality investigations, and has received a total of 183 citations. From October 1999 through July 2002, the Lorain site was inspected eight times, including one fatality investigation, under the ownership of Republic Technologies Inc. From November 1989 through January 1999, the Lorain site was inspected 19 times, including five fatality/catastrophe investigations, under the ownership of U.S.S. Kobe Steel Company. There are currently 150 workers at the Lorain site and a total of 500 workers company-wide. OSHA defines a willful violation as one committed with plain indifference to or intentional disregard for employee safety and health. OSHA issues repeat violations when a substantially similar violation of any standard, regulation, rule or order is found at any other facilities in federal

enforcement states.

Source:

<http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=20798&pagetitle=OSHA+finest+Ohio+steel+mill+for+safety+and+health+violations>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *October 23, Global Security Newswire* – (Tennessee; New Jersey) **U.S. Army receives \$1M in high-grade steel from NNSA.** The National Nuclear Security Administration said this week that it has finished shipping more than \$1 million in high-grade stainless steel from a nuclear-weapon facility to the U.S. Army. The steel has been moved from the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee to the Army Research, Engineering and Development Command in New Jersey. “The transfer of the steel, valued at more than \$1 million, is part of NNSA’s commitment to transform a Cold War nuclear weapons complex into a 21st century nuclear security enterprise,” the nuclear agency said in a press release. “The transfer is also part of Y-12’s effort to reduce the footprint of facilities and materials no longer needed for its current and future defense missions.” When purchased in the 1980s, the steel was intended to be used for a construction project at the Y-12 complex. That project ended up being terminated following the end of the Cold War. The steel is expected to be used in assorted military projects in New Jersey. “Transfer of the material to another federal agency eliminates the costs of preparation and sale of the material as surplus,” said the Y-12 Site Office Manager in the release. “Further, the transfer will reduce the need for the U.S. Army to procure similar items and material in support of its mission requirements”
Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20091022_7630.php
9. *October 23, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **China expands cyberspying in U.S., report says.** The Chinese government is ratcheting up its cyberspying operations against the U.S., a congressional advisory panel found, citing an example of a carefully orchestrated campaign against one U.S. company that appears to have been sponsored by Beijing. The unnamed company was just one of several successfully penetrated by a campaign of cyberespionage, according to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission report to be released Thursday. Chinese espionage operations are “straining the U.S. capacity to respond,” the report concludes. The bipartisan commission, formed by Congress in 2000 to investigate the security implications of growing trade with China, is made up largely of former U.S. government officials in the national security field. The commission contracted analysts at defense giant Northrop Grumman Corp. to write the report. The analysts would not name the company described in the case study, describing it only as “a firm involved in high-technology development.” The report did not provide a damage assessment and did not say specifically who was behind the attack against the U.S. company. But it said the company’s internal analysis indicated the attack originated in or came through China. The report concluded the attack was likely supported, if not orchestrated, by the Chinese government, because of the “professional quality” of the operation and the

technical nature of the stolen information, which is not easily sold by rival companies or criminal groups. The operation also targeted specific data and processed “extremely large volumes” of stolen information, the report said. Attacks like that cited in the report hew closely to a blueprint frequently used by Chinese cyberspies, who in total steal \$40 billion to \$50 billion in intellectual property from U.S. organizations each year, according to U.S. intelligence agency estimates provided by a person familiar with them. In the highly organized cyberspy scheme that drained valuable research and development information from a U.S. company, the report said, the hackers “operated at times using a communication channel between a host with an [Internet] address located in the People’s Republic of China and a server on the company’s internal network.”

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125616872684400273.html>

10. *October 22, Aviation Week* – (National) **NASA picks Turbojet for TBCC engine test.** NASA has selected a Williams International high-speed turbojet as the turbine element of its Turbine Based Combined Cycle (TBCC) engine test rig, which will be used to evaluate technologies for potential future two-stage to orbit launcher concepts. The 30-foot-long TBCC rig is under construction for runs at Mach 2 to 4 in a supersonic wind tunnel at NASA’s Glenn Research Center, Ohio, starting next year. The Williams WJ38 turbojet is adapted to run at Mach 3-plus and is a predecessor of more advanced high-speed turbine designs being developed separately under the Air Force Research Laboratory/Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Mach 4-plus turbine Histed (high-speed turbine engine demonstration) program. Although not a Histed engine, the WJ38 was acquired by NASA as part of that program, and will be integrated into the TBCC rig next year. The TBCC is designed to integrate a turbine and ramjet/scramjet into a unified propulsion system that could be used to power the first-stage of a two-stage launch vehicle from a standing start on a runway to speeds in excess of Mach 7. The concept also is being evaluated by Lockheed Martin and Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne as the ongoing Mode Transition (MoTr) program, which aims to fill the void left by the DARPA HTV-3X/Blackswift hypersonic demonstrator canceled in 2008. Unlike the NASA effort, MoTr is aimed at a propulsion system for potential high-speed strike/reconnaissance vehicles, and will include a running scramjet. The NASA TBCC rig incorporates a simulated hydrocarbon-fueled scramjet on the upper side of the combined propulsion system, with the turbine housed below, both of which will be fed with a common inlet and both exiting through a common nozzle. Testing will be divided into four main phases, beginning with inlet performance work in 2010, followed by unsteady inlet system work.

Source:

<http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/Engine102209.xml&headline=NASA Picks Turbojet For TBCC Engine Test&channel=space>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *October 23, Kansas City infoZine News* – (New York) **SEC charges New York broker for manipulating stock prices through fake press releases and internet postings.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on October 23 charged a securities broker from Merrick, New York, with securities fraud for repeatedly creating and then distributing fake press releases to manipulate the stock prices of multiple publicly traded companies. The SEC alleges that a registered representative of New York stock brokerage firm Global Arena Capital Corporation purported to announce good news regarding the companies, including that Google was buying one of them at a substantial premium. He then posed as an investor on Internet message boards, touting the announcements he had fabricated. In one instance, his scheme caused the stock price to increase by nearly 80 percent within a few hours of the issuance of his phony press release.
Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/38094/>

12. *October 23, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (National) **Fraud reported in homebuyer program.** A Treasury Department audit found thousands of taxpayers have filed fraudulent claims for the First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit. The audit found 70,005 examples of claimants who appear not to be first-time buyers applying for the \$8,000 credit. The audit also found 19,351 tax returns on which taxpayers claimed the credit for a home they had not yet purchased, costing the government \$139 million. Auditors blamed the IRS for the abuse. The audit says the agency should have required taxpayers to provide documentation they bought a home. They also said the IRS failed to review forms homeowners did fill out. It appears 3,238 illegal immigrants applied for the credit. The audit also found 582 children under 18, including some as young as 4 years old, claimed to be homebuyers.
Source: <http://www.kpho.com/money/21399505/detail.html>

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Transportation Sector

13. *October 22, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Northwest jet crew overshoots Minneapolis airport.** A Northwest Airbus A320 flying from San Diego overshot its destination of Minneapolis by about 150 miles on Wednesday, apparently when the crew became distracted, according to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which said Thursday that it's investigating the incident. The NTSB said Flight 188 was operating without radio contact at about 37,000 feet. The flight had 147 passengers and an unknown number of crew members. It overshoot Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) shortly at 7:58 a.m. Air traffic controllers re-established contact 8:14 a.m. The NTSB said the controllers reportedly stated that the crew had become distracted and had overflown MSP, and requested to return to MSP. The Federal Administration (FAA) said the Federal Bureau of Investigation and airport police interviewed the crew, who said they were in a heated discussion over airline policy and they lost situational awareness. The Safety Board is scheduling an interview with the crew. The Wall Street Journal is reporting that the NTSB is investigating whether the pilot fell asleep.

Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/business/65618837.html?elr=KArks:DCiU1OiP:DiiUiD3aPc:Yyc:aUU>

14. *October 22, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Metro train braking system catches fire on Red Line.** The braking system of a Metro train with no passengers aboard caught fire Thursday night on the Red Line in Rockville, authorities said. No injuries were reported after the incident at the Rockville station about 8:15 p.m., said a Metro spokeswoman. An outbound train reported a problem with the brakes minutes before the fire, and passengers were offloaded at the Twinbrook station, she said. The train then headed to the Shady Grove rail yard for repairs, but smoke appeared while en route and the empty train was stopped at the Rockville station, the spokeswoman said. Firefighters responded and determined that a small fire in the braking system burned itself out, but produced a lot of smoke. Metro officials diverted other trains to a single track around the incident and service was not stopped, she said. Officials believe the malfunctioning brakes caused the small fire. The incident was not expected to affect the morning commute.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/22/AR2009102204767.html?sub=AR>

15. *October 1, CBS 2 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Sticky commute for Metra, Amtrak riders after derailment.** A morning freight train derailment just south of Union Station prompted the suspension of a number of Southwest Service trains. There were multiple changes to the SouthWest Service schedule Thursday evening, according a Metra spokesman. Trains left from Union Station on time, but were be delayed 45-60 minutes en route. Trains will be going around the derailment using tracks that are not normally used, a spokesman said. “It’s a bit more of a complicated move that is definitely slowing everything down.” Emergency crews responded to the derailment at 8:53 a.m., according to a Fire Media Affairs Chief, who said no passengers were aboard the train and there were no reports of injury. A HazMat response, due to a minor fuel leak in the Chicago River, was secured at 9:45 a.m. A rail worker at the scene said workers had gotten off the train and, for some reason, did not set the brake properly. Something went wrong and the train started rolling down a hill and hit a derail, intended to stop the train but did not work.

Source: <http://cbs2chicago.com/local/south.loop.derailement.2.1264192.html>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [2](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *October 23, Galveston Daily News* – (Texas) **Suspicious package’ a hoax.** Members of the Harris County Sheriff’s Office bomb squad detonated Thursday a suspicious package found in a brick mailbox, but authorities called the incident a hoax. Authorities received the call at 4:06 p.m. and officers arrived in the 1900 block of Avenue L to

investigate, a Santa Fe police spokesman said. The package, which turned out to be a bottle wrapped in red duct tape, had BBs around it littering the ground. A bomb squad technician detonated the package at 7 p.m., but it didn't explode. Police collected the evidence and were expected to send it to the Galveston County Sheriff's Office for processing. Police will investigate the hoax to attempt to learn who placed the package in the mailbox and why, the police spokesman said. No injuries or arrests were reported.

Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=a0b844ca1e53fdae>

17. *October 22, NBC 4 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Hazmat responds to BMV building.** Columbus fire's hazmat crew was called out to a state government building Thursday morning. Columbus fire was called out to the Ohio BMV building at 1970 W. Broad St. at about 8:30 a.m. on reports of a suspicious letter. White powder was found in a letter in the mailroom, but crews determined the powder was not hazardous. The area was secured for several hours, but the building wasn't evacuated. No one was injured. Columbus fire gave the all-clear before 11:30 a.m.

Source:

http://www2.nbc4i.com/cmh/news/local/article/hazmat_reponds_to_bmv_building/25341/

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *October 23, Associated Press* – (Kansas; Oklahoma) **Kan., Okla. conduct joint livestock disease drill.** Trucks that could be hauling livestock along the Kansas and Oklahoma border were detained and their drivers questioned Thursday, during a drill aimed at protecting the nation's food supply from foot-and-mouth disease. State and local authorities set up roadblocks and pulled livestock vehicles over near Sitka, Kansas, and Turpin, Oklahoma, to ask questions about their loads and destination. It was part of what officials said was the first two-state exercise to halt the movement of livestock should the disease break out. The exercise came only two days after final congressional approval of the first \$32 million in funds for planning and construction for a proposed lab that would research foot-and-mouth and other animal diseases at Kansas State University in Manhattan. The 520,000-square-foot National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility would replace an aging lab on Plum Island, New York. Thursday's test, which was monitored by states including Colorado, Iowa and Nebraska, was based on the scenario of a presumptive case of foot-and-mouth disease in another state that would prompt Kansas officials to declare an emergency and clamp down on borders. There are more than 5,000 access points along Kansas' borders with its four neighboring states, but only 500 that can handle large semi tractor-trailer livestock haulers. Kansas' Livestock Commissioner said the state believes that at any given moment, about 50,000 head of livestock are on Kansas roads. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said 19.5 million head of livestock were moved across state lines in 2008 for feeding and breeding. In the event of an actual outbreak, livestock haulers would be stopped, turned back to their originating location or the livestock held

for inspection. There has been no reported case of foot-and-mouth disease in livestock in the U.S. since 1929. Because of that, the commissioner believes the biggest threat for an outbreak involves terrorists intentionally introducing it into an area to harm the U.S. economy. The commissioner said the FBI participated in Thursday's exercise and would investigate any real case.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gYrsUvGf3kkzPPvdwHc3ysGb_jbNgD9BGLBFO3

19. *October 23, The Ledger* – (National) **Citrus cleared for shipping.** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Thursday rescinded a ban on commercial citrus shipments from Florida, clearing the way for the state's growers to ship their products to 10 other U.S. citrus-producing states and territories. The ban, which was in effect for three years, was aimed at stopping the spread of citrus canker disease, which causes lesions on fruit and makes it unmarketable. The USDA now cites scientific evidence that commercially treated and packed fruit does not spread canker. "It's a big win, a big success story...the science was there," said the chief executive of the Florida Citrus Packers industry trade group. Five states were covered in the ban - California, Arizona, Louisiana, Hawaii and Texas - as well as five outlying island territories.

Source:

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20091023/NEWS/910235009/1001?Title=Citrus-Cleared-for-Shipping>

20. *October 23, Great Falls Tribune* – (Montana) **Counties designated as natural disaster areas.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) designated Chouteau, Dawson, McCone and Richland counties in Montana as primary natural disaster areas because of losses caused by the combined effects of drought, a cool and wet spring, late spring frosts, hail, excessive moisture at harvest and weather-related insect damage. Farm operators in the designated areas qualify for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met.

Source:

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20091023/NEWS01/910230329/Counties-designated-as-natural-disaster-areas>

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Water Sector

21. *October 22, Water Technology Online* – (National) **Power plants polluting water sources: NY Times.** In the latest of his series on the worsening pollution of America's waters and regulators' responses, a New York Times reporter looks at how the push for cleaner air sometimes results in polluted drinking water sources. He reports that according to a New York Times analysis of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data, power plants are the nation's biggest producer of toxic waste, surpassing industries like plastic and paint manufacturing and chemical plants. His report, "Cleansing the Air at the Expense of Waterways" was published in the October 12 print

edition of The New York Times. In it, he examines how tougher air pollution laws mean that more of what formerly went into the sky now goes into lakes and rivers, or into landfills that have leaked into groundwater. Among scenarios described in the report, he includes Allegheny Energy's coal-fired power plant in Masontown, PA. The power company was sued by five states claiming the plant caused air pollution resulting in respiratory diseases and acid rain. The power company cleaned up the plant's air emissions by installing scrubbers, but the technology used has put tens of thousands of gallons of wastewater containing chemicals from the scrubbing process into the Monongahela River. More than 350,000 rely on the river as a drinking water source. Source: http://watertechnonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=72818

22. *October 22, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Arizona) **EPA reaches agreement with Arizona mining company to study uranium-tainted groundwater on Tohono O'odham.** Cyprus Tohono Corporation, a former Phelps Dodge subsidiary, has agreed to fund an estimated \$6 million groundwater investigation at the Cyprus Tohono Mine Site, a copper mine southwest of Casa Grande, Arizona. The agreement requires Cyprus to thoroughly investigate the groundwater and pay future oversight costs incurred by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). "This investigation of uranium-contaminated groundwater will guide the EPA in selecting and designing a cleanup remedy that is effective at protecting human health and the environment," said the EPA's Superfund director for the Pacific Southwest region. Currently, Cyprus, in consultation with the Tohono O'odham Nation and the EPA, is voluntarily investigating uranium-contaminated groundwater at the site. The EPA, Tohono O'odham and Cyprus will meet with Cyprus to formalize the groundwater investigation on October 20. Under EPA oversight, Cypress recently completed a \$49 million cleanup, where approximately 4.4 million cubic yards of mine waste of all affected areas was placed into a lined repository with soil cover and revegetation. Seeding and vegetation growth monitoring will continue over the next three years.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/OPA/ADMPRESS.NSF/0/FF179BC968ABD3F5852576570060EC7D>

23. *October 22, KGO 7 San Francisco* – (California) **87,000 gallons of sewage spilled by storms.** Last week's powerful rainstorm overwhelmed San Mateo's (California) sewage system so badly that 87,000 gallons of untreated sewage flowed into streets and creeks, a violation of the federal Clean Water Act. Records from the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Board show that out of 87,000 gallons that spilled, 55 gallons flowed into the San Francisco Bay. The report says the incidents pushed bacteria levels at local beaches over public health limits, causing officials to post warnings and close some beaches. Earlier this year, San Mateo was fined for similar violations of the Clean Water Act.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/peninsula&id=7078365>

24. *October 21, Environment America* – (National) **Over 230 million pounds of toxics discharged into American waterways.** Industrial facilities dumped 232 million pounds of toxic chemicals into America's waterways, according to a report by

Environment America, “Wasting Our Waterways: Industrial Toxic Pollution and the Unfulfilled Promise of the Clean Water Act.” The report also finds that toxic chemicals were discharged in 1,900 waterways across all 50 states. Nearly half of the rivers and lakes in the U.S. are considered too polluted for safe fishing or swimming. The report documents and analyzes the dangerous levels of pollutants discharged into America’s waters by compiling toxic chemical releases reported to the U.S. EPA’s Toxics Release Inventory for 2007, the most recent data available. Major findings of the report include: Indiana topped the nation with over 27 million pounds of toxic chemicals dumped into the state’s waterways in 2007; ExxonMobil Refining & Supply Baton Rouge Refinery released over 4.2 million pounds of toxic chemical waste into the Mississippi River in Louisiana — the ExxonMobil refinery was one of the largest reported polluter of toxic chemicals in the country in 2007; and the top three waterways in the nation for most total toxic chemicals discharged in 2007 were the Ohio River, New River, and Mississippi River. Environment America’s report summarizes the discharge of cancer-causing chemicals, chemicals that persist in the environment, and chemicals with the potential to cause reproductive problems ranging from birth defects to reduced fertility. Among the toxic chemicals discharged by facilities are lead, mercury, and dioxin. In order to curb the toxic pollution threatening America’s waterways, the report also makes several recommendations for policy changes.

Source: <http://www.environmentamerica.org/news-releases/our-rivers-lakes-amp-streams/our-rivers-lakes-amp-streams/over-230-million-pounds-of-toxics-discharged-into-american-waterways>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *October 23, CNN* – (New York) **New York suspends mandatory flu shots for health workers.** New York public health workers will no longer be required to be vaccinated against both the seasonal and H1N1 flu virus, state officials announced Thursday, prompted by a vaccine shortage. A statement from the governor announced the policy change on behalf of the state health commissioner, who had originally said that public health workers must be vaccinated for the seasonal flu and the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu, by November 30 or risk discipline. The Public Employees Federation, New York’s second-largest state employees union, sued over the requirement and was awaiting a state Supreme Court hearing scheduled for October 30. The vaccine shortage has defused the conflict. The federal government had told states that, by the end of October, an estimated 120 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine would be readily available, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will have only about 27.7 million doses of the vaccine at month’s end.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/10/23/new.york.flu.vaccine/index.html>

26. *October 20, Reuters* – (Massachusetts) **US FDA warns Philips health unit on plant problems.** U.S. regulators warned the health-care unit of Koninklijke Philips

Electronics NV about manufacturing problems uncovered during an inspection of a plant in Massachusetts, a letter released on Tuesday said. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspectors found violations of federal manufacturing standards during a visit to a Philips Healthcare plant in Andover, Massachusetts, from January through March 2009, the letter said. The FDA said the violations included the failure to maintain procedures to ensure all complaints about medical devices were processed in a uniform and timely manner. The October 9 letter, posted on the FDA website on Tuesday, said the company had adequately responded to the inspectors' findings, but "a follow up inspection will be required to assure that corrections are adequate."

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2043980020091020>

27. *October 20, KION 46 Monterey* – (California) **Governor want to release states stockpile of flu masks.** As part of California's on-going emergency response efforts to ensure that California is ready and able to combat the spread of the H1N1 virus, the governor announced that he has directed his Department of Public Health to deploy up to half the state's emergency stockpile of specialized (N-95) masks. The Governor says that he wants the masks to go to local health jurisdictions for dispersal to hospitals and clinics so that health-care providers will have them on hand to ensure they can protect patients and themselves from the spread of H1N1 in health care settings and continue to safely provide care to those infected with the virus. In 2006, at the Governor's direction, California purchased a stockpile of 51 million N-95 respirators — face masks designed to prevent the passage of airborne germs. The state purchased the masks for health care workers to prepare for a possible pandemic, which has now occurred. The state will deploy nearly 50 percent of a local health jurisdiction's allocation at their request.

Source: <http://www.kionrightnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=11367027>

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *October 23, Associated Press* – (Utah) **No injuries after F-16 jettisons bombs during emergency landing at Utah's Hill Air Force Base.** An F-16 pilot jettisoned two 500-pound bombs and two fuel tanks before making an emergency landing at Hill Air Force Base on Thursday, officials said. No injuries were reported after the incident at the base about 30 miles north of Salt Lake City. A colonel said it appeared one bomb detonated and destroyed an empty tin shack on base in an uninhabited area. A Hill Air Force Base spokesman said Thursday night that explosive ordnance experts at the base were assessing the best method to recover a second bomb that did not explode.

Source: <http://www.mcall.com/news/nationworld/sns-ap-us-air-force-base-explosion,0,4893883.story>

29. *October 23, WSBTV 2 Duluth* – (Georgia) **3 treated after chemical spill at Ga. Tech.** Atlanta Fire-Rescue crews evacuated a portion of the Georgia Tech campus Thursday night following a chemical spill. A Channel 2 Action News reporter spoke with investigators at the scene, who told him that the spill occurred in the College of

Computing building on Atlantic Drive. Investigators said two chemicals came into contact inside a lab. “Three grad students were transported to Grady Hospital for observation. The incident is under investigation,” said a spokesman for the Georgia Institute of Technology. Officials said hazardous materials teams entered the building in special suits. The spokesman said a full cleanup was under way Thursday night and that the building is scheduled to reopen Friday morning. No word on what chemicals were involved in the incident.

Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/21398265/detail.html>

30. *October 22, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (National) **IG says more work needed on DOE’s unclassified cyber security program.** DOE’s Inspector General today released a report evaluating the agency’s unclassified cyber security program. The report said DOE is making improvements, but still has a ways to go to reduce risks to systems and data. Some National Nuclear Security Administration sites were cited in particular.

Source:

http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2009/10/ig_says_more_work_needed_on_do.html

31. *October 22, KWTX 10 Waco* – (Texas) **Waco hazmat team responds to chemical spill At MCC.** The Waco Fire Department’s HAZMAT team responded to a mercury spill Thursday afternoon in front of the new science building on the McLennan Community College campus. An area in front of the building was taped off, but no evacuations were ordered. A crew will remain on standby until an environmental cleanup team hired by the school arrives to contain and remove the mercury. An MCC lab technician was using a cart to move about 10 pounds of mercury into the new building when the container spilled just outside the door at around 2 p.m. Thursday. The Waco assistant fire chief said because the temperature is relatively cool and the mercury is so heavy, there’s no concern about vapors. Mercury vaporizes at 70 degrees, officials said. The temperature on campus when firefighters arrived was 65. It is the team’s second response to a campus chemical spill in a little more than a week. On October 13, Baylor University’s three-story science building was evacuated after a graduate student spilled a small quantity of isobutyl cyanide, which is toxic and potentially dangerous if ingested, inhaled or absorbed through the skin. The female graduate student was removing vials of the chemical from a packing case when one of the vials fell to the floor. The student, whose name was not released, placed the vial under a containment hood. Only about 1 milliliter of the substance was spilled, a university spokeswoman said. That is less than a teaspoonful, but enough to be dangerous.

Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/65619572.html>

32. *October 22, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **175 inmates to be disciplined for riot.** Northpoint Training Center plans to discipline at least 175 inmates for starting a riot at the prison in August, a Department of Corrections spokeswoman said. In addition, the Kentucky State Police and the Commonwealth’s attorney are conducting a joint investigation and plan to file criminal charges against inmates involved in starting the disturbance. The department said it could not reveal how many inmates are facing charges of first-degree arson, assault and inciting a riot. It is unclear when those

charges would be filed. Six buildings, including the kitchen, were burned and eight inmates and eight corrections officers suffered minor injuries after inmates began setting fires and trashing buildings at the prison near Burgin, Kentucky, on August 21. The department is conducting its own investigation into the riot and plans to release that report later this month.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20091022/NEWS01/910220338/175+inmates+to+be+disciplined+for+riot>

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *October 22, Spokane Spokesman-Review* – (Washington) **Craigslist sale leads to stolen police gear.** A suspicious camera sale brokered through Craigslist has led the Spokane County Sheriff's Office to a cache of stolen police gear taken from one of its undercover vehicles more than five months ago. The case began taking shape after a Sandpoint woman called detectives in late September after growing leery of an expensive camera being sold for well under its value by a young man she said knew little about its complicated features. The man selling the camera used to live near a detective whose unmarked police car was prowled in early May.
Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/sirens/2009/oct/22/craigslist-sale-leads-stolen-police-gear/>
34. *October 22, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Arsonist torches police cars in Seattle.** The Seattle Fire Department says several police vehicles were set aflame by an arsonist at a city maintenance and storage yard. A spokeswoman says Thursday's early morning fire damaged two police cars and one police van. She says the fire was quickly brought under control and there were no injuries. Police are reportedly looking for a man who was seen in the area with a backpack.
Source: <http://cbs13.com/national/seattle.police.arson.2.1264102.html>

For another story, see item [32](#)

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Information Technology Sector

35. *October 23, The Register* – (International) **Botnet click fraud at record high.** Malware-infected computers are increasingly being used to perpetrate click fraud, according to a study released on October 22 that found their contribution was the highest since researchers began compiling statistics on the crime. In the third quarter of this year, 42.6 percent of fraudulent clicks were generated by computers that were part of botnets, compared with 36.9 percent the previous quarter and about 27.6 percent in the same period of 2008. The increase comes as criminals trying to profit from click fraud take advantage of new advances in malware that make the practice harder to

detect. “As the botnets get more sophisticated, they’re able to perpetrate more click fraud,” said the CEO of Click Forensics, the advertising auditing firm that prepared the report. “They’re finding new ways of being distributed, and that’s reflected in the data.” The jump in botnet use over the past year comes as the overall amount of click fraud dropped, from 16 percent of all paid ads in Q3 of 2008 to 14.1 percent last quarter. That means manual forms of click fraud, in which large numbers of individuals engage in the practice, has decreased by an even larger margin. Many of those people get paid to knowingly gin the advertising results, while others are tricked into it. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/23/botnet_generated_click_fraud/

36. *October 22, KPIX 5 San Francisco* – (California) **Security flaws discovered in Calif. EDD website.** A serious security breach was discovered on October 22 concerning the CalJOBS website. The state-run web site may be putting hundreds of thousands of Californians at risk of identity theft. To get unemployment benefits in California you have to post your resume on CalJOBS. “I filled out my employment history and I saved it,” said an unemployed person, who bookmarked it for future reference. The problem emerged when users attempted to access their accounts. Instead of seeing their own personal information, they were seeing someone different. “I saw someone else’s information. I saw their name, where they live, their email, their phone number. I was shocked, really,” said the unemployed person. “Resumes are really fantastic tools for identity theft, because you get a person’s name, you get their home address and you get a lot of information about them, so you can impersonate them much more easily,” an expert with the World Privacy Forum said. Three quarters of a million people in California use the website in order to find employment and to collect unemployment benefits. Source: <http://cbs5.com/local/caljobs.security.breach.2.1265861.html>

37. *October 22, DarkReading* – (International) **Major secure email products and services miss spear-phishing attack.** A spear-phishing experiment conducted during the past few days by a researcher has netted some disturbing results: Most major enterprise email products and services were unable to detect a fake LinkedIn invitation on behalf of a very well known philanthropist which landed successfully in users’ inboxes. The CEO of PacketFocus sent a spoofed LinkedIn email to users in different organizations who had agreed to participate in his test. He was able to get his spoofed message through 100 percent of the time and across a wide variety of major email products and services, including smartphone email tools. The CEO will not name names yet, he is contacting the affected vendors first, but says he even tried it on willing vendors and was successful. “I tested [this on] six different enterprise networks using the latest email security technology from most of the major vendors, and not a single one picked up on the spoofed email,” he says. He has written a white paper on the attack and plans to reveal the vendors in the test after he has contacted them and received their responses. The CEO says he tested 10 different combinations of email security appliances, services, and open-source and commercial products; four major client email products; and three major smartphone brands. The problem is that most anti-phishing technology is built to catch large-scale phishing attacks, but not the insidious and dangerous small, targeted ones. “If it’s small-scale, the technology definitely can’t stop

it,” he says. “When the attacks get into the hundreds, it starts triggering [the security],” he says.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/insiderthreat/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=220900191>

For another story, see item [9](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@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

38. *October 22, Bellingham Herald* – (Washington) **Phone service restored at Whatcom County’s flu call center.** Phone and Internet services for Bellingham and Whatcom County government - including the countywide call center for flu clinics - have been restored after going down for a little over an hour starting at 1 p.m. on October 22. Officials said the service went down because of an internal electrical fault at Bellingham-based FiberCloud Data Center, a major Internet service provider for a wide range of local and regional businesses. The city of Bellingham has some of its network computer and phone systems housed at FiberCloud. When FiberCloud’s power went out, no calls could get into or out of city offices, and its Internet, e-mail and intranet were down. E-mail and Internet services for Whatcom County government also was down, but its phones were working because they are on a separate internal system. Phone calls into the center, which is located in a city of Bellingham facility, to set up appointments for two mass vaccination clinics for the H1N1 flu also couldn’t get through. Internet and phone service were restored around 2:15 p.m.

Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/latestheadlines/story/1125655.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

Dams Sector

39. *October 23, Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* – (Ohio) **State orders Spitzer to breach the Brentwood dam.** The dam at Brentwood Lake in Carlisle Township, Ohio, is in “serious disrepair and in danger of catastrophic failure” and should be breached as soon as plans are approved by dam safety officials, according to a lawsuit filed Thursday by the office of the Ohio Attorney General. The lawsuit asks a Common Pleas judge to order the Spitzer Hardware & Supply Co., a division of Spitzer Management, to take action in the long-standing dispute between Spitzer and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, which oversees dams. The suit asked Spitzer to direct its engineer to prepare plans to breach the dam, get them approved and immediately begin excavating. If the dam is breached, it would leave 33 homeowners on the lake and 170 others in the subdivision looking at wetlands instead of a pretty lake, decreasing their property values. A leak in a valve caused the lake to dry up last summer, killing thousands of fish.
Source: <http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2009/10/23/state-orders-spitzer-to-breach-the-brentwood-dam/>
40. *October 23, Seacoast Online* – (New Hampshire) **Exeter’s Great Dam to lower this fall for testing.** The water level of the Exeter River is anticipated to be lowered in early November, to allow for the examination of the appearance of — and effect on — the river if the Great Dam is removed. With the recent dry weather, the river will be lowered beginning November 2. The process will continue for approximately four weeks. During the time the water level is lowered, officials from Weston & Sampson, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), and the New Hampshire Coastal Program will monitor water quality, the effect on alternative groundwater sources and flow. Officials anticipate a two- to five-foot difference in the water level to the impoundment area located behind the dam. The dam is a primary drinking water source for the town. Ninety percent of the town is dependent on this source during the summer months. In the midst of the town’s examination of potential water sources, DES approached the town in October 2008, recommending the town consider removal of the Great Dam. The results of a \$100,000 study examining potential water supply alternatives to the Great Dam show the river remains as a water supply option even without the dam. The study found that an integrated management of water supply, using what is available, could be possible. The lowering of the river will determine how far the water can drop before affecting alternative groundwater sources, which will be monitored closely. If the town decides to pursue removal of the Great Dam after the drawdown, there are many more hurdles to overcome, not the least of which is the historical aspect of the dam. Even if the town decides to keep the dam, it may have to pursue groundwater options, because of regulatory requirements are coming down the line.
Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20091023-NEWS-910230359>

41. *October 22, Associated Press* – (Washington) **King County tests flood barrier to protect plant.** King County, Washington has spent about \$200,000 on what are essentially gigantic water balloons. But if the huge rubber and fabric barriers work as advertised and keep flood water out of the county's South Treatment Plant this winter, it's money well spent, said the assistant manager of the wastewater treatment facility. The plant, on 94 acres just south of Seattle, treats the sewage and wastewater from all of south King County and the populous suburbs east of Lake Washington — more than 1.4 million people in all. If the plant is swamped by a flood, it could be knocked out for weeks or even months, said a spokeswoman for the county's Wastewater Treatment Division. Among its precautions, the county has bought Floodwalls, giant rubber, and fabric tubes that can be filled with water and work like huge sandbags. At a demonstration Thursday, crews using fire hoses were able to fill two 15-foot-long tubes to a 3-foot height in about 15 minutes. The Floodwall barriers are being used at a plant entrance and two other below-grade spots. If water pours through those gaps, it could wipe out much of the plant's treatment equipment, which is at ground level or below. The county also is buying regular sandbags and barricades, acquiring large backup generators, and stocking provisions to staff the plant 24 hours a day should a flood occur. In all, it is budgeting up to \$7.5 million to protect the facility.
Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_green_river_wastewater.html

42. *October 1, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Surge barrier spells death knell for MR-GO.** It will take eight Eiffel Towers worth of steel to build the massive structure that will permanently close the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet and better protect the Industrial Canal from storm surges. And much of that steel has been loaded into 1,271 foundation pilings that contractors finished driving Wednesday. When Army Corps of Engineers contractors pounded the last of the steel-reinforced, 140-foot-long concrete "soldier" pilings deep into the marsh and clay that underlies the MR-GO and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, it marked the ceremonial end of an era. The work closes a shipping corridor that destroyed critical marsh and made the region more vulnerable to hurricanes. "I think of this as kind of driving the last concrete stake into the heart of MR-GO, and it's a big stake," said the corps' Hurricane Protection Office commander. He is responsible for seeing that the new structure is built and able to protect the vulnerable Industrial Canal by the June 1 start of the 2011 hurricane season. It is a permanent 1.8-mile barrier, a project costing more than \$1 billion, that will stop storm surges from rushing up the MR-GO and into the region's heart, as many forensic investigators say happened during Hurricane Katrina. The foundation of the barrier now in place will provide protection against a surge of about 14 feet, which the commander said would have been enough last year to stop Hurricane Gustav's surge from raising water inside the Industrial Canal to dangerously high levels. Each piling is 66 inches in diameter and had to be moved into place using three of the five largest cranes available in the United States, corps representatives said. Once in place, cages of steel rebar were lowered into each piling before they were filled with concrete.
Source: http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2009/10/post_8.html

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