Daily Highlights

• The Washington Post reports law enforcement agencies are looking into incidents, which occurred from late February through mid-March, in which people masquerading as unannounced inspectors were found poking around three hospitals in Boston, MA, Detroit, MI, and Los Angeles, CA. (See item 19)

• The Associated Press reports a malfunction in the reverse 911 warning system ended up calling 20,000 residents in three Florida cities instead of the 100 homes that were supposed to receive a telephone alert about a chlorine leak at a water plant in Ormond Beach. (See item 20)

DHS/IAIP Update Fast Jump

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials; Defense Industrial Base
Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping
Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health
Federal and State: Government; Emergency Services
IT and Cyber: Information Technology and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard
Other: Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons; General; DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

Energy Sector

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

1. April 23, Wisconsin State Journal — Plenty of power to cope with summer's demands.
   Barring an extended heat wave this summer, Wisconsin's electrical power supply should be adequate, energy company officials say. A pair of new electrical generating plants and a new high-volume transmission line between Illinois and Rockdale, WI, should help make sure there will be enough power to meet summer demand. Ken Copp, director of operations for American Transmission Co., which maintains power lines and monitors electrical flow, said the new 345,000-volt line from Illinois that went into operation last month will help state power
companies import power when needed. The West Campus Cogeneration plant at University of Wisconsin–Madison is scheduled to begin generating electricity next month and will boost Madison Gas & Electric’s reserve power, said spokesperson Steve Kraus. Alliant Energy Corp. also is building a 300,000-megawatt natural gas fired facility at Sheboygan Falls, which should be finished later this summer. Although the state’s power grid may deliver adequate supplies this summer, Copp said it needs some improvements such as a high–volume line between Madison and Milwaukee planned in several years. "The system is still constrained," he said. "On the busiest days, we still have to deny the ability of our customers to import (power)," said Copp.

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

2. April 25, Associated Press — Chemical spill kills thousands of fish. Thousands of dead fish have been found downstream Friday, April 22, two days after Novozymes Biologicals, a Salem, VA, biotechnology company, accidentally released as much as 1,400 gallons of floor and drain cleaner into Mason Creek, which flows into the Roanoke River, officials said. Salem Fire Chief, Pat Counts, called it a "significant" fish kill and warned people to stay away from the creek until further notice. The chemical could cause minor skin and eye irritation, company and Salem officials said. There have been no reported injuries related to the spill. The state Department of Environmental Quality, the state Health Department, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are investigating the spill.

3. April 22, Associated Press — Fumes from truck crash sicken emergency crews. The driver of a tractor–trailer crashed just before midnight Thursday, April 21, on U.S. Route 119 south of Belo, WV, closing the highway and sickening nearly 50 emergency workers exposed to the burning wreckage. The four–lane highway remained shut down in both directions as of Friday afternoon because of the accident. Police were asking drivers to avoid the area. The truck was carrying barrels of a polyurethane–based material called RePneu II that is used to fill the tires of off–road coal mining and construction equipment to prevent flats. The chemical is manufactured by Arnco based in South Gate, CA. Police and firefighters responding to the accident initially thought the leaking liquid was oil, but they began complaining of breathing problems and other ailments. They were taken to Williamson Memorial Hospital for decontamination and treatment for eye and skin irritation. No one was admitted.

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.
Banking and Finance Sector

4. **April 22, Personnel Today — Phishing attacks catch sensitive human resources information.** Organized crime gangs are developing clever phishing attacks against businesses to try to steal passwords and sensitive information, experts have warned. Anne Bonaparte, chief executive of e-mail security company MailFrontier, said gangs are using sophisticated attacks to identify new employees in businesses. The phishers then pose as payroll providers and try to use the information they have harvested to get personal details from a company's human resources department. Organized crime is targeting businesses rather than consumers because the rewards can be greater, Bonaparte added.
Source: [http://www.personneltoday.com/Articles/2005/04/22/29400/Phishing+attacks+catch+sensitive+HR+information.htm](http://www.personneltoday.com/Articles/2005/04/22/29400/Phishing+attacks+catch+sensitive+HR+information.htm)

5. **April 21, Department of Treasury — Treasury isolates two Latvian banks as primary money laundering concerns.** The U.S. Department of the Treasury on Thursday, April 21, utilized USA PATRIOT Act powers to designate two Latvian financial institutions as "primary money laundering concerns." Multibanka and VEF Bank were named pursuant to Section 311 of the Act for money laundering activities and financial abuse by account holders and owners. "The Treasury has judiciously and strategically utilized the power of Section 311 to isolate rogue actors that present money laundering concerns and risks to the U.S. financial sector," said Secretary of Treasury John W. Snow. "Our use of this authority also alerts our global counterparts of specific concerns about real threats to the integrity of the international financial system." In conjunction with this designation, Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued proposed rules that when made final will prohibit U.S. financial institutions from establishing, maintaining, administering or managing any correspondent account in the United States for or on behalf of these two banks.
Source: [http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/js2401.htm](http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/js2401.htm)

Transportation and Border Security Sector

6. **April 24, New York Times — The Acela frustrates Amtrak.** The Acela, instead of being Amtrak's savior as planned, has become a frustrating burden. On Wednesday, April 20, the company announced plans to sideline all 20 Acelas until summer to replace cracked brakes. It was the third major disruption of the high-speed service since it came on line in 2001. A reconstruction of Acela's history involving dozens of interviews and a review of court documents and other records shows that Amtrak was under intense pressure to deliver its new train as quickly as possible. And that rush to do something bigger and more complicated than the railroad had ever done led to a series of missteps that many experts believe contributed to the problems that have plagued the Acela to this day. For example, before the first train was built, the Federal Railroad Administration required it to meet crash safety standards that senior Amtrak officials considered too strict. That forced the manufacturers, Bombardier Inc. of Canada and GEC Alstom of France, to make the trains twice as heavy as European models. Some experts have speculated that the added weight contributed to a series of problems,
including the latest one, with Acela's wheels, brakes and shock-absorbing assemblies. Nonetheless, despite its many problems, Acela remains Amtrak's most successful service. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/24/national/24acela.html?hp&ex=1114315200&en=33b9ffeaa0c275cf&ei=5094&partner=homepage

7. April 22, New York Times — Amtrak offers package seeking more money from states. Amtrak proposed a package of changes on Thursday, April 21, that would seek additional money from states and from commuter rail lines that operate on its tracks. The proposal raises the possibility of allowing other companies to take over some services or even run trains. In exchange, Amtrak asked Congress for $1.8 billion for the next fiscal year, about 50 percent more than it is receiving. The Bush administration has proposed stopping all subsidies unless Congress reorganizes the company. Amtrak's proposal is different on many points from what the administration wants. It calls for Congress to pay off its $3.5 billion debt and does not rely on financing from regional groups of states, and it rejects the idea of turning over the Northeast Corridor, the tracks between Boston and Washington, to someone else. It also rejects the idea that Amtrak should break even on operating costs. In addition, the Northeast Corridor needs $1.8 billion to $2 billion in the next few years to be brought into good repair. Some experts say the overhead power system is so old that it will begin causing major delays soon unless it is replaced. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/22/politics/22amtrak.html?oref=login

8. April 22, Department of Homeland Security — Grants to secure intercity bus programs. The Department of Homeland Security on Friday, April 22, announced $9,657,138 in intercity bus security grants, reinforcing the Administration’s commitment to protecting the nation’s traveling public. The Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP) enhances security for the millions of passengers who travel using the nation’s buses on a daily basis. Friday’s announcement places a strong emphasis on providing resources that will help intercity bus systems better prevent and detect possible explosive devices, as well as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents. The program offers funding to support passenger and baggage screening, enhance bus facility security, improve systems to better monitor, track and communicate with vehicles and, conduct training and exercises. Source: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4477

9. April 21, Canada NewsWire Group — Border chokepoints draining U.S. economic potential. Each year the American economy loses $4.13 billion in economic potential because of clogged border crossings into Canada, with the greatest losses suffered by the Great Lakes States. "Borders are the chokepoints of our economy," said Len Crispino, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. "Lost jobs and lost economic potential are having a dramatic impact on the United States." In the Cost of Border Delays to the United States Economy study, released on Thursday, April 21, the OCC found that the economic loss to the U.S. is conservatively measured at $471,461 per hour — each and every hour of the day. There is also a corresponding loss of potential employment — particularly in the manufacturing and transportation industries. The study found that Michigan and Ohio bear the brunt of the economic loss, closely followed by New York and Pennsylvania. "There are over 5.2 million jobs in the United States that are dependant on trade with Canada," said Crispino. The full study, backgrounder, and a previous study focused on Canada and Ontario’s economy can be found at http://www.occ.on.ca.
Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

Agriculture Sector

10. **April 25, Sun-Sentinel (FL)** — **Canker outbreak discovered.** A second citrus grove with a large canker infection of 250 trees has been found in northern Martin County, Florida agricultural officials said Friday, April 22. The newest site is approximately nine miles southeast of the previous county outbreak, a year-old infection, bolstering the theory that hurricane winds spread canker southward in Martin County. It is the second-largest infection on the Treasure Coast outside of St. Lucie County. St. Lucie County had widespread infections in its 82,000 acres of commercial groves. Those months-old outbreaks are attributed to hurricane winds spewing canker south from a year-old infection at the very northern end of St. Lucie County, said Tim Goettwald, a canker researcher with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That site is west of the intersection of Indrio Road and Interstate 95. About 333 infected trees were found there. Since January, dozens of federal and state inspectors have found 13 other infection sites, all post-hurricane, south of Indrio Road. In the last two weeks, no additional infections were found in St. Lucie County, raising hopes that searchers had found all the current infections.


11. **April 21, Nebraska Department of Agriculture** — **Nebraska investigates bovine tuberculosis.** The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), Bureau of Animal Industry, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Services, has concluded initial testing in the investigation into a case of bovine tuberculosis (TB) discovered in Nebraska earlier this year. In February, two source herds, along with 18 herds containing animals sold from the source herds, were placed under quarantine. In the past months, an aggressive epidemiological investigation tested over 2,000 animals and did not reveal any cases of TB. The two source herds have been released from quarantine, under the condition that all animals in the herds be re-tested for TB this fall. Eight of the herds containing animals sold from the source herds tested negative and have also been released from quarantine. The remaining animals, which are located in feedlots, will remain quarantined until they go to slaughter. A second TB positive case was confirmed in a steer from a Nebraska feedlot in late March. Three pens of cattle in the feedlot have been quarantined and are in the process of being sent to slaughter. Investigation continues by NDA and USDA Veterinary Services into the source of the infected steer. There is no connection with the first TB case.

Source: [http://www.agr.state.ne.us/newsrel/bai/04tb.htm](http://www.agr.state.ne.us/newsrel/bai/04tb.htm)
Food Sector

12. **April 21, Food Safety and Inspection Service — Meat products recalled.** Oberle Meats, a St. Genevieve, MO, establishment, is voluntarily recalling approximately 1,077 pounds of ready-to-eat meat products that may be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Thursday, April 21. The products were distributed to retail establishments in Illinois and Missouri. The problem was discovered through routine FSIS regulatory sampling. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of these products. Consumption of food contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease.


Water Sector

13. **April 23, Associated Press — California wells face perchlorate contamination.** Many working-class suburbs are facing an emerging threat of uncertain dimensions: a chemical used in rocket fuel and defense manufacturing has contaminated much of its drinking water supply. As one Rialto, CA, well after another has tested positive for perchlorate — six of the city's 13 wells in all — projected cleanup costs have ballooned to more than double Rialto's $40 million annual budget. The town sued the Department of Defense and dozens of other suspected polluters, pleaded with residents to conserve water and hiked water rates 65 percent. It is uncertain what level of perchlorate represents a hazard, but the conclusion of city leaders is the piping any amount of perchlorate into homes poses an unacceptable gamble. In February, the EPA issued a safety standard that any amount of perchlorate less than 24.5 parts per billion in drinking water was safe, an amount much higher than the six parts per billion California set as a public health goal.


Public Health Sector

14. **April 23, BBC News — Angola virus at critical stage.** Angola is at a critical stage in its fight against an outbreak of the Marburg virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) says. Although there is evidence that the number of cases is declining, efforts must be intensified to bring the disease under control, it says. There have been 266 cases of the virus in Angola, in the world's largest ever recorded outbreak of the disease. At least 244 people are reported to have died. In the first weeks of the outbreak, 25–30 cases a week were being recorded. The latest figure is 15, although doctors believe that may still rise. "This is good news, but it doesn't mean the outbreak is over," said Fatoumata Diallo, the WHO's representative in Angola. "The chain of transmission is being broken as we speak. However, this is the most critical time now in the
response," said Mike Ryan, the WHO's top outbreak specialist. "Continuing and intensifying the effort is what we need to do now, not relax," he said. 
Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4477609.stm

15. April 23, Daily Star (Lebanon) — Flu samples destroyed in Lebanon. The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the American University of Beirut (AUB) destroyed the last samples of the H2N2 influenza virus, which the College of American Pathologists (CAP) had mistakenly sent, Friday, April 22. As part of its proficiency testing and accreditation program, CAP had requested to send unknown samples to the AUB; but instead dispatched several strains of the lethal influenza virus to the university as well as 61 other laboratories outside the U.S. The samples remained at Beirut International Airport for nearly two weeks, until they were recovered Wednesday, April 20. Although it never received the samples, AUB saw to their destruction in conjunction with the Health Ministry and the World Health Organization. 

16. April 22, Reuters — Four cases of polio found in Yemen. Officials have discovered four cases of polio in the Yemeni port city of al–Hudaydah and suspect the disease came from nearby infected countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday, April 22. Health officials are searching for other cases in the Arab state as scientists examine the genetic composition of the virus to see whether it is indigenous and signals a new outbreak or stems from another country. These were the first reported cases of polio in Yemen since 1996. Yemen is the 15th previously polio–free country, including 13 in Africa, to report an outbreak since northern Nigeria suspended vaccinations in late 2003 for 10 months, sparking an epidemic that has spread across Africa. 
Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L22582728.htm

17. April 22, Cell — In vitro generation of infectious prions. Prions are unconventional infectious agents responsible for transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) diseases. They are thought to be composed exclusively of the protease–resistant prion protein (PrPres) that replicates in the body by inducing the misfolding of the cellular prion protein (PrPC). Although compelling evidence supports this hypothesis, generation of infectious prion particles in vitro has not been convincingly demonstrated. Researchers have shown that PrPC – PrPres conversion can be mimicked in vitro by cyclic amplification of protein misfolding, resulting in indefinite amplification of PrPres. The in vitro–generated forms of PrPres share similar biochemical and structural properties with PrPres derived from sick brains. Inoculation of wild–type hamsters with in vitro–produced PrPres led to a scrapie disease identical to the illness produced by brain infectious material. These findings demonstrate that prions can be generated in vitro and provide strong evidence in support of the protein–only hypothesis of prion transmission. 
Source: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6W SN-4G0KCXX-8&_user=10&_coverDate=04%2F22%2F2005 &_alid=270326481&_rdoc=1&_fmt=summary&_orig=browse&_sort=d&view=c&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_userid=10&md5=bc5d84bb4a3d884cbcc9bdc1bcb00110

18.
April 22, New York Times — Flu samples, released in error, are mostly destroyed, U.S. says. Nearly all samples of a deadly influenza virus sent in test kits to laboratories in the U.S. have been identified and destroyed, Julie L. Gerberding, who directs the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said Thursday April 21. To help prevent a similar mistake in the future, the government will issue new recommendations requiring laboratories to upgrade safety measures when handling the virus, Gerberding said. She also said her agency had assembled a team of influenza and laboratory experts to investigate how such a dangerous virus was sent to nearly 4,000 laboratories in the U.S. and other countries. The samples were sent to laboratories that may handle influenza viruses as part of a federally mandated program meant to ensure accuracy of testing. Meridian Bioscience Inc., in Cincinnati, OH, shipped the samples beginning last fall under contract with the College of American Pathologists as part of the group's proficiency testing program. Jared N. Schwartz, an official of the college, has said that when Meridian checked a U.S. government manual, its team found that the A(H2N2) strain could be sent to laboratories as a biosafety level 2 microbe. Meridian apparently did not know that the CDC had been discussing upgrading the classification of the strain to level 3, as some other countries have done.

19. April 22, Washington Post — Fake hospital inspectors probed. The FBI and other law enforcement agencies are looking into incidents, which occurred from late February through mid–March, in which people masquerading as unannounced inspectors were found poking around three hospitals in Boston, MA, Detroit, MI, and Los Angeles, CA. Virtually all U.S. hospitals are subject to unannounced inspections by surveyors from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). In all three incidents, the impostors implied or stated outright they were JCAHO surveyors. In the first, a man and woman were stopped by a security guard at a Los Angeles hospital about 2 a.m. They showed badges similar to those issued by JCAHO and asked to be let in. When the guard asked for more identification, they retreated, saying they were at the wrong hospital. The second incident occurred three days later at a hospital in Boston. A man described as being of South Asian or Middle Eastern descent was stopped about 3 a.m and when asked for identification fled. About a week later, a woman was found in the maternity ward of a Detroit hospital. She identified herself as a Joint Commission surveyor but fled when staff members asked more questions. In response, JCAHO said that all unannounced surveyors will now carry a letter signed by its executive vice president.

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.
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Emergency Services Sector

20. April 22, Associated Press — Thousands receive telephone alert by mistake in Florida. Less
than 100 homes were supposed to receive a telephone alert about a chlorine leak at a water plant in Ormond Beach, FL, but a malfunction in the reverse 911 warning system ended up calling 20,000 residents in three cities instead. About 14,600 calls got through. Volusia County spokesperson Dave Byron said the computerized emergency notification system worked Thursday, April 21, as it was designed to do. Human error in programming the calls is suspected. Calls went to a three-square-mile area instead of the intended three-block zone. A recorded message warned residents to stay indoors with the windows closed and the air conditioning off. A complicating factor was that people receiving the call were told to call "Tara" at a specific number if they had questions. The name was spelled out, but some people thought they heard "Terror" and panicked. Police and city hall phones lines were jammed with calls. The chlorine leak was contained within minutes. Four city employees and a garbage collector exposed to the chlorine gas suffered respiratory problems, eye irritation or minor skin burns.

Source: [http://www.jacksonville.com/tu−online/apnews/stories/042205/D89K9BPG0.shtml](http://www.jacksonville.com/tu−online/apnews/stories/042205/D89K9BPG0.shtml)

**Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

21. **April 21, Secunia** — **Netref file creation vulnerability.** A vulnerability in Netref, which can be exploited by malicious people to compromise a vulnerable system. Input passed to the "ad_direct" and "m_for_racine" parameters in "script/cat_for_gen.php" isn't properly verified before being used. This can be exploited to create a file with an arbitrary filename where the content can be controlled. No vendor solution is currently available.


22. **April 21, SecurityFocus** — **MySQL AB MySQL multiple remote vulnerabilities.** MySQL is reported prone to multiple vulnerabilities that can be exploited by a remote authenticated attacker to corrupt files with the privileges of the MySQL process, to manipulate functions in order to control sensitive data structures, and to execute a malicious library in the context of the MySQL process. Vendor solutions are available through Source link.


23. **April 21, Washington Post** — **Arrests made in Internet drug ring.** The Drug Enforcement Administration has shut down a major Internet drug ring run from Philadelphia by two foreign university students who allegedly sold millions of doses of controlled narcotics, steroids and amphetamines online without prescriptions, officials said on Wednesday, April 20. Officials said 20 people have been arrested so far this week in the United States and abroad in what they called the first Internet drug bust involving an international supplier. More than 200 Websites got their drugs through the ring, the officials said. While officials said they were encouraged by the arrests and the additional information they are expected to produce, they added that the problem of "rogue" Internet pharmacies is large and growing. The operation that was closed down supplied Websites based in the United States, Costa Rica, Canada and Australia and shipped out as many as 1,000 packages a day, they said. The drug bust involved at least seven federal agencies and followed an investigation that took more than a year.

   Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/articles/A6180−2005Apr2 0.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/articles/A6180−2005Apr2 0.html)
Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US−CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US−CERT Operations Center Synopsis: Multiple vulnerabilities have been reported in Firefox, which can be exploited by malicious people to conduct cross−site scripting attacks, bypass certain security restrictions, and compromise a user's system. Successful exploitation may allow execution of arbitrary code.

Current Port Attacks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 10 Target Ports</th>
<th>Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a>; Internet Storm Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>445 (microsoft−ds)</td>
<td>135 (epmap), 41170 (----), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 6346 (gnutella−svc), 1026 (----), 139 (netbios−ssn), 53 (domain), 1027 (icq), 80 (www)</td>
</tr>
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: [www.us−cert.gov](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/](https://www.it−isac.org/).

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

General Sector

Nothing to report.

DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures:

**Homeland Security Advisories and Information Bulletins** – DHS/IAIP produces two levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that addresses cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact. Homeland Security Advisories and Information Bulletins are available on the Department of Homeland Security Website: [http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=70](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=70)

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**Contact DHS/IAIP**

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](http://www.us–cert.gov).

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