Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 08 May 2007

Daily Highlights

- Symantec Corp. researchers Friday, May 4, warned of a Trojan horse in the wild that poses as a Windows activation program to dupe users into entering credit card information in an attempt to reanimate their machines. (See item 8)

- The Associated Press reports police arrested a Nevada man at the Hancock International Airport in Syracuse, New York, for possession of explosives and stolen goods. (See item 16)

- The Department of Homeland Security announced on Friday, May 4, that it intends to integrate biometric exit procedures into the existing international visitor departure process, which will make departing the United States more convenient and accessible for international visitors. (See item 17)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: **Energy**; **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials**; **Defense Industrial Base**

Service Industries: **Banking and Finance**; **Transportation and Border Security**; **Postal and Shipping**

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 Daily Report Contact Information**

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: ELEVATED, <u>Cyber</u>: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – http://www.esisac.com]

1. *May 06, Associated Press* — **Survey: Gas prices reach record average.** Gasoline prices have surged to a record nationwide average of $3.07 per gallon, nearly 20 cents higher than two weeks earlier, oil industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday, May 6. The previous record was $3.03 per gallon on August 11, 2006. But despite inventory fears that have sent prices

higher, there are signs that the rising prices at the pump may be peaking. Just two weeks ago, the U.S. average for a gallon of regular gas was $2.87, but the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 stations nationwide on Friday showed an increase of about 19.5 cents to $3.07. That's up 88.4 cents since January 19, Lundberg said. The nationwide average for mid−grade gasoline was $3.18 and premium was $3.28. The nation's lowest average pump price was $2.80 per gallon in Charleston, SC, while the highest was $3.49 in San Francisco.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP−Gas−Prices.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

2. *May 06, Associated Press* — **Study: Wind farms likely to generate more power.** Wind farms could generate up to seven percent of U.S. electricity in 15 years, but scientists want more study of the threat the spinning blades pose to birds and bats. The risk is not understood enough to draw conclusions, a National Research Council panel said last week in a study requested by Congress. Clearly the farms provide jobs and in some cases can be a recreational attraction, he said. But they can also affect property values, and reflections off the rotor blades can be distracting to some people, said Risser, who is currently acting director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Growing from almost nothing in 1980, wind−powered turbines generated 11,605 megawatts of electricity in the United States in 2006, although that was still less than one percent of the national power supply. Wind farms now operate in 36 states. "There is a great diversity of opinion on how much there is going to be a ramping up of wind energy," said report co−author Mary English of the University of Tennessee.
Source: http://www.theeagle.com/stories/050607/business_20070506020. php

3. *May 06, Associated Press* — **Exxon Mobil cancels state government's gasoline credit cards amid tax dispute.** Exxon Mobil Corp. has canceled the Connecticut government's gasoline credit cards as part of a tax dispute with the state, the Republican−American of Waterbury reported Saturday, May 5. The state comptroller's office notified state agencies on Friday not to use state−issued Exxon Mobil cards because retailers won't accept them. The notice said card use had been suspended indefinitely because of a tax dispute with Exxon Mobil. It advised agencies to use alternative means for buying gas for the time being.
Source: http://www.nhregister.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18306355&BRD=1281&PAG=461&dept_id=31007&rfi=6

4. *May 05, Cleveland Plain Dealer* — **NRC says new checks enough to catch leaks.** Tougher inspections triggered by the discovery of a rust hole in the Davis−Besse nuclear reactor lid in 2002 are enough to prevent a repeat of the near−disaster, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Friday, May 4, even though a new analysis suggests the corrosion progressed much faster than experts had thought. The NRC said the more−frequent visual and instrument−aided checks it now requires can spot cracks and coolant leaks in time to avoid the kind of extensive lid damage that crippled Davis−Besse. FirstEnergy Corp's report provided to the NRC in March asserts that the pineapple−sized Davis−Besse rust hole formed in just four or five months −− not the four years that the utility, the agency and industry experts previously believed. In light of that finding, some raised concerns about whether other reactors might also be vulnerable to fast−acting corrosion. The NRC has not yet determined whether the fast−corrosion scenario in the consultants' report is plausible. But the speed of corrosion is moot, the agency said Friday. Tiny cracks in a reactor lid's components still take years to progress to coolant leaks, which is plenty of time for the now−required more−frequent inspections to detect them.
Source: http://www.cleveland.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news/1178

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *May 07, Cincinnati Business Courier* — **Armor Holdings to be acquired.** Armor Holdings said Monday, May 7, that it is being acquired by a British defense firm. BAE Systems Inc., a subsidiary of United Kingdom−based BAE Systems plc, said it has agreed to acquire Jacksonville, FL−based Armor for $4.1 billion. The deal is subject to approval by Armor's shareholders and U.S. regulators. It is expected to close in the third quarter of this year. Source: http://cincinnati.bizjournals.com/cincinnati/stories/2007/05 /07/daily2.html?jst=b_ln_hl

6. *May 04, Aviation Week* — **Multiyear Raptor procurement deal nearly complete.** The Air Force and F−22 Raptor contractors team is only a couple of weeks away from completing negotiations for a multiyear procurement contract that could serve as a foundation for additional aircraft buys beyond the deal and become a template for other similar deals. The multiyear deal will provide the promised $225 million in savings over the proposed three years, said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Riemer, the new Raptor program executive officer. RAND evaluators are being brought in to scrutinize the procurement plan, Riemer said. Pentagon officials should begin their review in the first part of June to certify that the procurement strategy complies with appropriate laws and policies. After that, the procurement plan will go to Congress for its review. Source: http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?cha nnel=aerospacedaily&id=news/MULT050407.xml&headline=Multiyea r%20Raptor%20procurement%20deal%20nearly%20complete

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *May 05, AHN Media* — **Florida man pleads guilty in $13.2 million international high−yield investment scam.** A Florida man pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and tax evasion Friday, May 4. Ray Allen Benton faces up to 15 years in prison, a $750,000 fine, and will be ordered to pay restitution to his victims. The charges stem from a joint FBI and IRS investigation into Benton's participation in an international investment scheme where he promoted a high−yield investment opportunity in which he claimed he could obtain investors a 1,200 percent rate of return within six months. Benton told investors that he would generate these returns by using investment money to "lease funds" which would be used in a high−yield trading program. From October 2002 through October 2005, Benton, through an investment business named Towerland Limited, received $13.2 million from investors who thought they were leasing larger amounts of money to be used in high−yield trading programs as Benton had

promised. Benton sent the victims bank documents, supposedly issued by a legitimate bank, making it appear that he had accessed large amounts of money on their behalf. Investors transferred $13.2 million to accounts controlled by Benton. In reality, the bank documents sent by Benton were forged and his leased funds program did not exist.
Source: http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7007255204

8. *May 04, Computerworld* — **Trojan horse impersonates Windows activation to snatch credit card numbers.** Symantec Corp. researchers Friday, May 4, warned of a Trojan horse in the wild that poses as a Windows activation program to dupe users into entering credit card information in an attempt to reanimate their machines. Dubbed Kardphisher, the Trojan horse is nothing much technically, reported Takashi Katsuki, a Symantec researcher. But its author has "obviously taken great pains to make it appear legitimate." Once the malware is installed, it throws up an official–looking screen that claims the user's copy of Windows was activated by someone else. "To help reduce software piracy, please reactivate your copy of Windows now," the screen reads. "We will ask you for your billing details, but your credit card will NOT be charged." Selecting "No," said Katsuki, shuts down the PC. "Yes," meanwhile, leads to a second screen where the user is asked to enter his name and credit card information, which is then transmitted to the hacker's server. According to Symantec, the Trojan horse affects Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT and Server 2003. Details on the Trojan horse's bogus reactivation screens look legitimate, and they play off real–world behavior by Windows.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewA rticleBasic&articleId=9018645&intsrc=hm_list

9. *May 04, The Forum* — **Phishing scammers troll Fargo–Moorhead area for account information.** Cyberscammers have trolled the Fargo–Moorhead, ND, area, trying to get account information from customers of the Fargo Public Schools Federal Credit Union. The scammers sent out mass mailings Tuesday, May 1, under the guise of a security upgrade, said credit union President Deb Mathern. So far, no one has lost money to the scam. E–mails were directed at employees of institutions and firms such as North Dakota State University and The Forum. Mathern said the scam was timed to coincide with a federal deadline for "multi–factor identification" of financial institution clients. The challenge questions mimic what a bank or credit union might ask to set up security for an account. Then credit card or account numbers and other personal information are sought. The scam, which borrowed the credit union's logo, has been shut down. Such scams have concentrated on smaller financial firms because they often outsource technology work and may be vulnerable longer than large firms, Mahern said.
Source: http://www.in–forum.com/News/articles/164625

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *May 07, San Francisco Chronicle* — **Caltrans moves up deadline to replace the connector from Bay Bridge to I–580.** One of the MacArthur Maze freeway connectors damaged when a tanker full of gasoline exploded in flames was to reopen at 5 a.m. Monday, May 7, well ahead of the date officials had predicted, state transportation Director Will Kempton announced Sunday. The reopening of the connector from westbound Interstate 80 to southbound I–880 will bring relief to the 35,000 drivers who normally use it each day. Private crews under contract

with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) have worked around the clock on the damaged structure since the tanker crash April 29, first removing debris from the I–580 connector that collapsed onto it and then straightening and reinforcing warped steel beams on the battered I–880 connector. The MacArthur Maze, which links several vital East Bay highways, is used by more than 200,000 cars each day. Many commuters and transportation officials had predicted gridlock would paralyze roads around the closed connectors, which together carry some 80,000 cars daily. Caltrans officials were able to expedite the normally lengthy road repair process after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared an emergency for the site. The move gave Caltrans the power to cut through red tape.
Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi–bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/05/07/MNGNEPMD7M1.DTL

11. *May 07, USA TODAY* — **Air Canada a possible blueprint for airline industry.** Selling bulk travel to individual customers is just one of a half–dozen innovations by Air Canada in recent years that have U.S. rivals glancing northward to monitor their acceptance by travelers. Once a lumbering money–loser, it's now a profitable pioneer, finding new ways to sell passengers only the services and amenities they want and nothing more. With Air Canada, a traveler can cut fares by agreeing to leave a suitcase at home or by forgoing loyalty points. Canada's biggest and oldest carrier is showing its U.S. competitors a new way of doing business that could become the future of air travel. Last year, Air Canada became the first North American carrier to implement a la carte pricing. Fliers can buy cheap tickets for bare bones service, then pay more for extras such as schedule flexibility or reserved seating. The cheapest tickets come with minimal service and are Air Canada's most popular. The most expensive, "Executive Class," include the works: meals, lounge access and reserved seating. Peter Belobaba, an airline–pricing expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, agrees that Air Canada is ahead of the pack among North American airlines. "More than any other U.S. legacy carrier, they've been willing to try innovative ideas," he says.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007–05–07–air–canada –usat_N.htm

12. *May 07, Reuters* — **U.S. airlines scale back fare increases.** Some U.S. airlines rolled back much of their recent systemwide fare increases on Monday, May 7, in a sign that carriers are losing pricing power amid softening demand. Continental Airlines sparked a broad fare increase Friday, May 4, by raising prices $5 each way on all continental U.S. flights. The move was matched by most major airlines, but not by budget carriers like Southwest Airlines Co. The unsuccessful attempt at a fare increase is the latest setback for the long–suffering industry, which has been contending with jet fuel prices that have risen by about one–third over the last four months. With demand showing signs of softening and competition intense, the U.S. carriers appear to have little power to pass the higher costs on to consumers. Last year, fare increases along with reduced capacity and lower costs helped the industry claw its way out of a five–year downturn.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/070507/airlines_fares.html?.v=2

13. *May 07, KIRO TV (WA)* — **Bomb threat closes Edmonds–Kingston Ferry route.** A note threatening a bomb on a state ferry at Edmonds, WA, shut down the Edmonds–Kingston route on Monday, May 7, ferry officials said. Officials said ferry workers found a note in the car deck restroom on the ferry Spokane and evacuated everyone including vehicles. The Washington State Patrol was at the scene with a full bomb squad response, including a robot and a

bomb−sniffing dog.
Source: http://www.kirotv.com/news/13270118/detail.html

14. *May 07, News & Observer (NC)* — **Bomb threat clears, delays buses in Triangle.** A telephoned bomb threat Friday morning, May 4, prompted three Triangle transit agencies to stop and search about 140 buses in the middle of their routes, evacuating some riders and delaying their trips by five to 90 minutes. A regional call center operated by the Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) received the call about 9 a.m. EDT. The caller indicated there was a bomb on an unspecified bus, according to the Chapel Hill, NC, Police Department. A Raleigh transit official said the caller mentioned identifying numbers that did not match any Capital Area Transit (CAT) buses or routes. An estimated 47 TTA, 55 CAT, and 39 Durham Area Transit Authority buses were stopped and searched, some with the help of police officers and sheriff's deputies. Spokespersons for the three agencies said nothing suspicious was found, and the buses resumed their routes.
Source: http://www.newsobserver.com/102/story/571001.html

15. *May 07, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−07−840T: Maritime Security: Opportunities Exist to Further Clarify the Consequences of a Liquefied Natural Gas Tanker Spill (Testimony).** Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is a supercooled liquid form of natural gas. U.S. LNG imports are projected to increase to about 17 percent of natural gas supplies by 2030, from about three percent today. To meet this increase, energy companies have submitted 32 applications for new terminals. If a terrorist attack on an LNG tanker caused a spill, potential hazards, such as fire, asphyxiation, and explosions, could result. The Department of Energy (DOE) recently funded a study to conduct small− and large−scale experiments to refine and validate models that calculate how heat from large LNG fires would affect the public. This testimony is based on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) report, Maritime Security: Public Safety Consequences of a Terrorist Attack on a Tanker Carrying Liquefied Natural Gas Need Clarification (GAO−07−316). To prepare this report, GAO examined the results of six recent studies on the effects of an LNG spill and convened a panel of 19 experts to identify areas of agreement on the consequences of a terrorist attack on an LNG tanker. GAO recommended that DOE incorporate the key issues GAO's expert panel identified, particularly the potential for cascading failure, into its current LNG study. DOE concurred with this recommendation.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07840thigh.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−07−840T

16. *May 06, Associated Press* — **Man arrested at Syracuse airport for having explosive.** Police arrested a Nevada man at the Hancock International Airport in Syracuse, NY, for possession of explosives and stolen goods. Syracuse police say security workers found a blasting cap in the luggage of 20−year−old Anthony Montoya. A blasting cap is a small explosive device commonly used to detonate more powerful commercial explosives such as dynamite. Police are investigating where the materials came from. They say there's is no indication that Montoya had any intention of using the explosives for any criminal activity.
Source: http://www.wstm.com/Global/story.asp?S=6475456&nav=2aKD

17. *May 04, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS: US−VISIT moves out of biometric exit pilot phase.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Friday, May 4, that it

intends to integrate biometric exit procedures into the existing international visitor departure process. The change will make the process of departing the United States more convenient and accessible for international visitors. DHS will take a number of steps in the next year toward full implementation of biometric exit procedures at airports. The first step will be the completion of the three−year pilot program that required international visitors to biometrically check out at select airports and seaports. Effective Sunday, May 6, international visitors will no longer be required to use the US−VISIT exit kiosks when they leave the United States. International visitors who received a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Form I−94, Arrival−Departure Record, upon arrival must still return the form to an airline or ship representative when departing the United States. DHS is now prepared to begin implementing exit procedures in the commercial air environment, where the significant majority of those subject to US−VISIT depart the United States. The department recently began discussing the air exit strategy with the airline industry and will be working with air carriers to implement it.
For additional information: http://www.dhs.gov/us−visit
Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1178549052332.shtm

18. *April 16, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−07−634: Aviation Security: Risk, Experience, and Customer Concerns Drive Changes to Airline Passenger Screening Procedures, but Evaluation and Documentation of Proposed Changes Could Be Improved (Report).** The Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) most visible layer of commercial aviation security is the screening of airline passengers at airport checkpoints, where travelers and their carry−on items are screened for explosives and other dangerous items by transportation security officers (TSO). Several revisions made to checkpoint screening procedures have been scrutinized and questioned by the traveling public and Congress in recent years. For this review, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluated (1) TSA's decisions to modify passenger screening procedures between April 2005 and December 2005 and in response to the alleged August 2006 liquid explosives terrorist plot, and (2) how TSA monitored TSO compliance with passenger screening procedures. To conduct this work, GAO reviewed TSA documents, interviewed TSA officials and aviation security experts, and visited 25 airports of varying sizes and locations. In the March 2007 report that contained sensitive security information, GAO recommended, and the Department of Homeland Security concurred, that TSA develop sound methods to assess whether proposed screening changes would achieve their intended purpose and generate complete documentation on proposed screening changes that are deemed significant.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07634high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−07−634

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.
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Agriculture Sector

19. *May 07, Associated Press* — **Red fire ants facing killer virus.** Imported red fire ants have plagued farmers, ranchers and others for decades. Now the reviled pests are facing a bug of their own. Researchers have pinpointed a naturally occurring virus that kills the ants, which arrived in the U.S. in the 1930s and now cause $6 billion in damage annually nationwide, including about $1.2 billion in Texas. The virus caught the attention of U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers in Florida in 2002. The virus was found in about 20 percent of fire ant fields, where it appears to cause the slow death of infected colonies. The massive fire ant colonies destroy crops, damage farm and electrical equipment and hasten soil erosion. Humans and livestock are particularly vulnerable to the insect's stinging attacks. With no natural predators to keep them in check, fire ants have spread across the U.S., where their numbers are now 10 times greater than in their native South America. Fire ants have been detected in 13 states, covering 320 million acres, and are spreading northward. The pest has been found as far north as Virginia and along parts of the California coastline.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP–Farm–Scene.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

20. *May 04, Cattle Network* — **Alberta ramps up the battle against Johne's Disease.** The Food Safety Division (FSD) of Alberta Agriculture and Food works closely with the Alberta Johne's Disease Working Group and the National Johne's Disease Prevention and Control program to reduce the spread of Johne's Disease (JD) in Alberta cattle and other ruminants. Johne's Disease is a chronic, debilitating disease of livestock. Says Dr. Hernan Ortegon of the Office of the Alberta Chief Provincial Veterinarian and coordinator of the working group: "The nature of JD makes it difficult to accurately detect it in cattle. It can remain dormant in the animals for several years. There is a lot of investigation going on in Canada and the U.S. trying to develop a technique for a diagnostic test that is more sensitive than what we already have." Alberta Agriculture and Food is the administrator for the Alberta Johne's Disease Working Group, which was created in 2001 by the department in partnership with industry stakeholders. The working group will operate in tandem with an existing program, the Alberta Voluntary Johne's Herd Status Program. As part of this program, testing is conducted to establish which herds do not have Johne's, and a variety of strategies are used to help them maintain their Johne's–free status.
Source: http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=127310

21. *May 04, The Farmer* — **DNR reduces deer herd in half in Bovine TB Management Zone.** A seven–week operation designed to protect the long–term health of deer and cattle from bovine tuberculosis has resulted in 488 deer being removed from a nine–mile radius of Skime, a small community in northwestern Minnesota. The sharp shooting effort reduced by about half the number of deer potentially infected with bovine TB, a disease that has been detected in cattle herds and wild deer near Skime during the past two years. The operation, in which the Department of Natural Resources contracted sharpshooters from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, began February 22 and ended in early April. "From the standpoint of deer removal, this was a very successful effort," said Michelle Powell, DNR wildlife health program coordinator. "Reducing the number of wild deer infected with bovine TB now, while the problem is in only a few deer in a localized area, will protect the long–term health of Minnesota's deer population and minimize the risk of deer–to–deer or deer–to–cattle transmission of the disease." The DNR plans continued surveillance efforts during the fall hunting season to better determine the prevalence and distribution of the disease among the larger deer population.

Source: http://the−farmer.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=28174& fpstid=2

22. *May 03, Associated Press* — **After tests, all quarantines of Wisconsin swine herds lifted.** Tests of Clark County, WI, swine herds for pseudorabies in a final quarantine area came out negative, and officials say that should clear the way for the state to retain its status as free of the disease despite an outbreak in two herds. The viral illness causes respiratory symptoms in healthy adult hogs but can kill newborn pigs and cause abortion or stillbirth in sows. Both herds where the disease was found, one with 300 pigs near Greenwood and the other with 27 near Loyal, were destroyed last Friday, May 4. The Greenwood cases were the first confirmed in a commercial herd nationally since 2003.
Source: http://www.wsaw.com/home/headlines/7320706.html

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Food Sector

23. *May 04, USAgNet* — **South Korea still calling U.S. beef unsafe.** Asian news sources are reporting that South Korea's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has sent the World Organization for Animal Health a written opinion indicating U.S. cattle are at risk for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The correspondence was dated April 9, just a week after Seoul and Washington successfully concluded a free−trade agreement. Among Korea's complaints: The U.S. doesn't have an effective system to trace BSE−infected cattle or routes of infection. The Ministry also argues that specified risk materials used to feed non−ruminant animals could result in cross−contamination of cattle.
Source: http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story−national.php?Id=1 014&yr=2007

24. *May 04, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Aulcorp Food Marketers Inc. conducts recall of Archer Farms Four Cheese Risotto.** Aulcorp Food Marketers of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is recalling Archer Farms Four Cheese Risotto, six ounces with "Best If Used By 16JUL2008AA", because it has the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. No illnesses have been reported to date. The risotto was sold nationwide through Target stores. The Archer Farms Four Cheese Risotto flavor has been pulled from Target stores while the FDA and Aulcorp Food Marketers Inc. continue their investigation as to the source of the contamination. The Salmonella contamination was noted after random testing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/aulcorp05_07.html

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Water Sector

25. *May 05, Star−News (NC)* — **Weather Service places part of North Carolina on drought register.** Though some rain finally arrived Friday, May 4, parts of Southeastern North Carolina slipped into the first stage of drought conditions last week, according to the National Weather Service. Brunswick and Columbus counties were placed on the drought register last week under that designation and are expected to remain there despite the light, spotty rain that fell Friday.

Residents within these areas are asked to take steps to conserve water. Mark Boyer, spokesperson for New Hanover County, said if the voluntary alert isn't sufficient to alleviate a water shortage, then a mandatory alert will follow. Al Hight, director of Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service said he doesn't expect an all−out drought to be declared. "We are in a period of time when we have less than normal rainfall for several months, but it's not a drought. It would be very unusual to have a drought in Southeastern North Carolina; summer is our rainy season, especially July," when tropical systems often bring the heaviest rainfall of the year, he said.
Source: http://www.wilmingtonstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/200 70505/NEWS/705050369/0/business

26. *May 05, Tampa Bay Newspapers (FL)* — **Drought conditions worsen in South Florida.** Below normal rainfall and decreasing local water supplies have officials urgently requesting that people cutback on their use of potable and reclaimed water. According to officials at Tampa Bay Water and Pinellas County Utilities, current drought conditions have resulted in increased demand for water – both potable and reclaimed, which is putting a burden on dwindling water supplies. "Increased outdoor water use is the primary cause of the high regional water demand," said officials at Tampa Bay Water. Pinellas County Utilities said on May 4 that demand for reclaimed water by south Pinellas County reclaimed water customers was at an all time high and had reached a critical stage. Officials were urgently requesting that south county customers implement a voluntary reduction in usage effective immediately. One−day−per−week restrictions were put in place in January and are being strictly enforced throughout the region. For a current copy of the watering schedule, visit www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/water−restrict.htm
Source: http://www.tbnweekly.com/content_articles/050507_fpg−01.txt

27. *May 05, Bellingham Herald (WA)* — **Lake Whatcom water quality declining.** The quality of Lake Whatcom, WA, water is worsening despite attempts to control pollution from runoff. That's the conclusion embedded in the latest annual report, containing almost 500 pages of scientific data obtained by analysis of water from the lake and its tributaries. "Is the lake heading in a direction we don't want it to go? The answer is yes," said Robin Matthews, the report's lead author and director of the Institute for Watershed Studies at Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University. The lake is the drinking water source for about half the residents of Whatcom County, including the city of Bellingham, WA. Significant deterioration of the lake's water quality was first noted in 1998, when a reduction in dissolved oxygen in the lake's depths caused the state Department of Ecology to put the lake on its list of impaired water bodies. Research since then has made it clear that the oxygen problem is related to phosphorus pollution, Matthews said.
Annual Report: http://ceratium.ietc.wwu.edu/IWS/Projects/lake%20whatcom/onl ine%20pdf%20reports/online%20pdf%20reports/final_06.pdf
Source: http://www.bellinghamherald.com/255/story/72257.html

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Public Health Sector

28.

May 07, University at Buffalo (NY) — **Work with nanoparticles may lead to 'on−the−spot' virus detector.** Chemical engineers from the University at Buffalo (UB) have collaborated with scientists from other institutions to solve a critical bottleneck in the transport and capture of virus nanoparticles, making possible a device that could rapidly sample and detect infectious biological agents, such as viruses. "This advance may pave the way for an 'on−the−spot' virus detector, which would be immensely helpful, especially in military and public−health applications," said Paschalis Alexandridis, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering in the UB School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and co−author on the research. A paper describing the results was published in the March issue of Langmuir (vol. 23, p. 3840). The rapid detection of viruses in biological samples is of increasing interest, particularly with the recent emergence of new viruses. But because viral particles are present at such low concentrations in biological samples, such as blood, a device that can quickly and easily detect them has remained elusive.
Abstract: http://pubs.acs.org/cgi−bin/abstract.cgi/langd5/2007/23/i07/ abs/la061486l.html
Source: http://www.buffalo.edu/news/8594

29. *May 07, Reuters* — **Indonesian woman dies of bird flu.** An Indonesian woman from Sumatra has died from bird flu, a health ministry official said on Monday, May 7, taking the country's human death toll to 75. Joko Suyono said by telephone the H5N1 virus had been confirmed after two laboratory tests on samples from the victim. The woman, 29, who was from Pekanbaru in Riau province on Sumatra island, was hospitalized in Medan on May 1 after suffering from fever and respiratory problems and died two days later, another health ministry official, Suharda Ningrum, said.
Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SP233038.htm

30. *May 07, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−07−627: Global Health: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria Has Improved Its Documentation of Funding Decisions but Needs Standardized Oversight Expectations and Assessments (Report).** The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has approved about $7 billion in grants to developing countries; the U.S. has contributed $1.9 billion. The State Department's Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator coordinates the U.S. government's overseas AIDS programs, with participation from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In 2003, Congress directed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on the Global Fund every two years. This report assesses the Global Fund's (1) documentation of information used to support performance−based funding decisions, (2) progress in implementing a risk assessment model and early warning system, and (3) oversight of the performance of "local fund agents" (LFAs), which monitor grant progress in recipient countries. GAO reviewed the documentation for funding decisions and interviewed key officials. GAO recommends that the Secretaries of State and Health and Human Services work with the Global Fund's Board Chair and Executive Director to (1) establish standardized expectations for LFA performance and (2) require systematic assessments of LFA performance and the collection and analysis of performance data. The Departments of State and HHS, USAID, and the Global Fund agreed with GAO's findings and recommendations.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07627high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−07−627

31. *May 06, New York Times* — **Diethylene glycol loaded into counterfeit medicine.** The kidneys fail first. Then the central nervous system begins to misfire. Paralysis spreads, making breathing difficult, then often impossible without assistance. In the end, most victims die. The syrupy poison, diethylene glycol, is an indispensable part of the modern world, an industrial solvent and prime ingredient in some antifreeze. Over the years, the poison has been loaded into all varieties of medicine −− cough syrup, fever medication, injectable drugs −− a result of counterfeiters who profit by substituting the sweet−tasting solvent for a safe, more expensive syrup, usually glycerin, commonly used in drugs, food, toothpaste and other products. Toxic syrup has figured in at least eight mass poisonings around the world in the past two decades. Researchers estimate that thousands have died. In many cases, the precise origin of the poison has never been determined. But records and interviews show that in three of the last four cases it was made in China, a major source of counterfeit drugs.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/06/world/americas/06poison.html?_r=2&hp&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

32. *May 06, Reuters* — **Bird flu re−emerges in central Vietnam, kills ducks.** Bird flu has been found on a duck farm in central Vietnam, the first outbreak of the disease in more than a month, the government said on Sunday, May 6. Tests showed the H5N1 virus had killed 160 ducklings in the farm in Nghe An province on May 1, the Agriculture Ministry's Animal Health Department said in a report. It said the 40−day−old ducklings had not been vaccinated against bird flu. By Friday another 90 ducks died in the same farm, prompting health workers to slaughter the remaining 360 fowl, the report said.
Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HAN196291.htm

33. *May 05, Cincinnati Post (OH)* — **Seven infected by TB at homeless shelter.** An outbreak of tuberculosis (TB) at a downtown Cincinnati, OH, homeless shelter has infected seven people, and health officials are looking for up to 600 more people who may have been exposed to the potentially deadly disease. Officials at the Drop Inn Center, the region's largest domicile for the homeless, first discovered there might be a problem in February when someone who stayed at the shelter was diagnosed with tuberculosis. The disease can take weeks to develop and many carriers do not know they are infected until symptoms appear. So far, 200 people have been tested. At a press conference Friday, May 4, Pat Clifford, Drop Inn Center general director, said no new cases have been discovered or reported.
Source: http://news.kypost.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070505/NEWS02/705050341/1014

34. *May 04, Canadian Press* — **Mumps appears in Ontario.** Canada's mumps outbreak has moved out of the Maritimes and into Ontario, with three confirmed and five suspected cases, officials confirmed Friday, May 4. In Nova Scotia, the center of the outbreak, public health officials admitted they are considering a catch−up vaccination campaign for university students and health−care workers, several of whom have become infected while caring for mumps cases. Previously officials in the province had said that any catch−up campaign −− designed to give a second dose of the combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine to young adults who only received one in childhood −− would need to be done in conjunction with other provinces and territories. Last week, there was a significant jump in cases in Nova Scotia, to 203 from 157, with mumps now being reported in all nine health regions in the province. As of Friday, New Brunswick reported 34 cases and Prince Edward Island remains at one confirmed case. For the

first time the outbreak has moved out of the Maritimes to Central Canada –– a development public health officials had warned might occur as the university year ended and Halifax students dispersed to their homes throughout the Maritimes and beyond.
Source: http://www.thestar.com/News/article/210662

35. *May 04, Reuters* — **U.S. plans to reduce bird flu testing during 2007.** The United States will test fewer wild birds during 2007 for the avian influenza virus than it did a year ago, but government officials said on Friday, May 4, surveillance efforts will focus on species and locations with the greatest chance of detecting the virus. The U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior, which jointly monitor for avian influenza, told Reuters they plan to take about 77,000 samples from wild birds during the April 2007 to March 2008 period. As part of an effort to rapidly boost domestic surveillance following the spread of the virus overseas, USDA and Interior worked with states to collect more than 111,000 samples during the same period a year ago. Interior will test about the same number of birds, 27,000, but this time it will spend more effort on dead and sick birds that are more likely to show symptoms of the disease. A reduction in so–called environmental samples by USDA, such as testing of bird droppings, also will be cut in half to 25,000.
Source: http://uk.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUKWAT007435200705 04

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.
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Emergency Services Sector

36. *May 08, KTEN–TV (OK)* — **National switch to digital broadcasting may benefit emergency responders.** A nation–wide switchover to digital television in 2009 could mean communication upgrades for state emergency responders. Legislators say the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) will set aside one billion dollars from the upcoming sale of public airwave licenses to go towards firefighters, police, and other emergency responders. Congress has set a deadline of February 17, 2009, for the nation to switch to all–digital TV broadcasts. It will be the biggest change in the television industry since color TV. Frequencies from public airwaves carrying free signals will be turned over after the switch. The FCC will sell those licenses, and part of the revenue will be turned over for state and federal use. The decision to do this came after the September 11th terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts exposed weaknesses in emergency communication systems.
Source: http://www.kten.com/global/story.asp?s=6476918&ClientType=Pr intable

37. *May 07, WISH–TV (IN)* — **Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels launches firefighting training program.** Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels kicked off the first, state–funded local firefighter training program Saturday, May 5. The courses will enable thousands of volunteer and full–time firefighters from across Indiana to learn and practice the latest techniques for extinguishing blazes and performing rescue maneuvers. The Indiana Department of Homeland

Security developed the fire training system and will manage the program. The department will be facilitating instruction at several regional training centers. "Volunteer and full–time firefighters will receive the same comprehensive instruction," said Roger Johnson, Indiana State Fire Marshal. "This will strengthen relationships between departments and increase the skills of first responders who are frequently placed in harm's way."
Source: http://www.wishtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=6473877&nav=0Ra7

38. *May 06, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares major disaster for Kansas.** The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Sunday, May 6, that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Kansas to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on May 4, 2007, and continuing. FEMA Administrator David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the state by President Bush. The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Kiowa County.
Source: http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=36030

39. *May 05, KOAA–TV (CO)* — **Colorado disaster drill tests first responders.** In a massive drill on Saturday, May 5, more than 100 simulated victims of a terrorist attack were flown from Denver to Colorado Springs, CO, after the hospitals in Denver were overflowing. When they arrived at triage station set up inside a hanger in the Colorado Springs Airport, their injuries were assessed before being transported by helicopter or ambulance to Penrose community, Memorial, or Evans Community Hospital on Fort Carson. The drill included nearly three–dozen organizations from up and down the Front Range, including Fort Carson and the Colorado Air National Guard. The goals at the disaster drill included: building cooperation between Front Range agencies, improve inter–agency communication and enhance the use of the National Incident Management System. New patient tracking software was tested at the event. When the victims arrive, their information is scanned into a database that, in turn, tracks their progress and location. Organizers say the drill went well today, but, "No matter how well you do an exercise you can always improve, there is always something better to do."
Source: http://www.koaa.com/news/view.asp?ID=7653

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

40. *May 07, InformationWeek* — **Month Of ActiveX Bugs Reveals Critical Vulnerabilities .** Researchers posted details of a denial–of–service bug in Office OCX PowerPoint Viewer. It's an ActiveX control that enables software to communicate with Microsoft PowerPoint files. The French Security Incident Response Team (FrSIRT) called the bug critical. There are also several holes in the Excel Viewer OCX that Secunia rates as "highly critical." "The vulnerabilities are caused due to boundary errors within the Excel Viewer ActiveX control (ExcelViewer.ocx)," wrote Secunia analysts. "These can be exploited to cause stack–based buffer overflows via overly long arguments passed to certain methods (e.g. "HttpDownloadFile()" or "OpenWebFile()"). Successful exploitation may allow execution of arbitrary code when a user visits a malicious Website." The vulnerabilities, according to Secunia, are confirmed in version 3.2.0.5, but other versions also may be affected.

Secunia: http://secunia.com/
FrSIRT: http://www.frsirt.com/english/
Source: http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articl eID=199300005

41. *May 07, InfoWorld* — **USB worm gets its turn.** Security researchers at Sophos are warning of a new Trojan worm virus that is being spread via infected USB device. According to the security software maker the W32/SillyFD−AA program, or Silly worm, automatically spreads itself to any USB storage device connected to a PC it has infected, and then passes itself along to any subsequent machines to which the removable thumb drive is inserted. Sophos said that once loaded onto a computer, the worm creates a hidden file labeled as "autorun.inf" from which it continues to propagate itself. Among the only discernible affects of the attack is that it changes the title of users' Internet Explorer browsers to read: Hacked by 1BYTE. Sophos advises that people should disable the USB autorun feature of Windows that allows the devices to immediately being communicating with a PC once connected. Unfamiliar USB sticks should be checked for viruses before being allowed to run, the company said.
Source: http://weblog.infoworld.com/zeroday/archives/2007/05/usb_wor m_gets_i.html

42. *May 07, Associated Press* — **Nearly 50 percent of Americans have little use for Internet and cell phones, survey finds.** A broad survey about the technology people have, how they use it, and what they think about it shatters assumptions and reveals where companies might be able to expand their audiences. The Pew Internet and American Life Project found that adult Americans are broadly divided into three groups: 31 percent are elite technology users, 20 percent are moderate users and the remainder have little or no usage of the Internet or cell phones.
Report: http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/213/report_display.asp
Source: http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,270392,00.html

43. *May 03, TechWorld.com* — **Spammers use fresh technique to evade filters.** Spammers have stepped up efforts to use encrypted attachments to evade filtering systems, service provider Email Systems has reported. The technique relies on the fact that many spam systems can't scan inside emails containing encrypted or password−protected attachments, and work out that they are not legitimate. Without a rule to block such attachments, most systems will pass on the email to recipients, handing spammers an important victory in the battle to get spam through. In recent weeks, Email Systems detected a small but steady stream of such spam emanating from bot−compromised hosts, containing a zipped−up version of the pervasive 'Storm' bot−loading Trojan that plagued Internet users in January. Recipients would have been able to inadvertently unzip the Trojan using an embedded password, after being attracted by a number of eye−catching subject lines, including 'Worm Detected!', 'Virus Detected!', 'Spyware Alert!' and 'Warning!'
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewA rticleBasic&articleId=9018597&intsrc=hm_list

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

44. *May 06, KXAN (TX)* — **Suspicious item forces residents to evacuate.** Another suspicious item found near Austin, TX, homes, forces a neighborhood to evacuate. Police were called to a disturbance just before10 Saturday night, May 5, on the 7000 block of Guadalupe. When they arrived, they arrested one man for public intoxication. They saw what looked like suspicious items and called the bomb squad to the scene. Residents were then asked to leave their homes. Later Sunday morning they were allowed to return and police deemed the items safe and legal. This is the fourth suspicious item found in recent weeks.
Source: http://www.kxan.com/Global/story.asp?S=6475640&nav=menu73_2_2

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General Sector

Nothing to report.
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