Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 May 2007

Current Nationwide Threat Level is ELEVATED Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks
For info click here
http://www.dhs.gov/

Daily Highlights

- The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is sending out letters to an estimated 300,000 licensees and applicants informing them of a potential compromise of their names, Social Security numbers, and other personal data. (See item 9)
- The Associated Press reports the Transportation Security Administration has started using hand−held scanners to inspect bottled carry−on liquids for explosives at some of the nation's busiest airports. (See item 14)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Energy Sector

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

1. *May 21, MarketWatch* — **States maneuver to lure new nuclear power plants.** In a positive shift for U.S. power companies planning a new fleet of nuclear facilities, nuclear power has gained popularity in several states as a solution to high power prices and growing demand. Louisiana, Florida, South Carolina and Georgia are offering incentives to develop new nuclear generation, hoping that nuclear power prices will be lower and less volatile than power generated by natural gas. State regulators also hope new nuclear power plants will create jobs and bolster local industry. Nuclear operators say state rules ensuring cost recovery of new plants −− particularly pre−construction costs −− will likely affect their decisions about where to

build new plants. Louisiana and Florida have approved measures that would allow New Orleans−based Entergy Corp. to pass on some pre−construction nuclear plant development costs to their customers, while Georgia regulators are considering a similar move. A new nuclear plant in Florida would diversify the state's energy sources, protecting customers from fluctuations in oil and natural gas prices, said Lisa Polak Edgar, chairperson of the Florida Public Service Commission.
Source: http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/states−maneuver−lure−new−nuclear/story.aspx?guid=%7B8AE42F93−8213−4704−AF26−4F4BE1 6B6A31%7D

2. *May 21, SC Magazine* — **Congressmen want explanation on possible nuclear power plant cybersecurity incident.** Two Democratic congressmen want to know whether America's nuclear power plants are at risk to a cybersecurity attack. U.S. Representative Bennie G. Thompson, D−MS, chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, and Representative James R. Langevin, D−RI, chairman of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology, have asked Dale E. Klein, chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), to investigate the nation's nuclear cybersecurity infrastructure. They said a cybersecurity "incident" resembling a DoS attack on August 19, 2006 left the Browns Ferry Unit 3 nuclear power facility in northern Alabama at risk. A letter from Thompson and Langevin, dated May 18, asked that Klein institute comprehensive cybersecurity policies and procedures on safety and non−safety systems for U.S. nuclear power plant licensees. "Conversations between the Homeland Security Committee staff and NRC representatives suggest that it is possible that this incident could have come from outside the plant," the congressmen wrote. Thompson and Langevin's letter also asked the regulatory committee whether it has determined the source of what they called the "data storm," and whether it is planning an investigation. They also asked for the NRC to submit a written response to their letter by June 14.
Source: http://scmagazine.com/us/news/article/658709/congressmen−want−explanation−possible−nuclear−power−plant−cybersecurity−inc ident/

3. *May 21, MarketWatch* — **Williams Cos. to sell power assets to Bear Stearns.** Bear Stearns moved to substantially increase the size of its energy unit after the investment bank said Monday, May 21, it would pay $512 million to buy all power assets from The Williams Cos. shares rose $2.03 to $151.60 after it said its Bear Energy LP will buy 7,700 megawatts of gas−fired tolling capacity, 1,800 megawatts of full requirements power supply contracts, and an associated trading book. Bear Energy also will acquire various information systems and seek to hire Williams Power Co. employees. The company expects to divest its remaining power assets this year as part of its exit from the power business. Williams' valuation of those assets is approximately $50 million. Founded in 2006 to provide energy solutions in the physical and financial energy markets, Bear Energy manages more than 6,000 megawatts of physical power assets.
Source: http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/williams−sell−power−assets−bear/story.aspx?guid=%7BFED6751C−2A22−40FD−A91C−AB06141 08C47%7D

4. *May 21, Associated Press* — **NiSource unit hit with fine.** A unit of natural gas distributor NiSource Inc. must pay a $2 million penalty to resolve a federal investigation into whether it failed to let a competitor connect to its pipeline network. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Monday, May 21, approved an agreement with Columbia Gulf

Transmission Company to resolve its investigation into whether NiSource−owned Columbia failed to let Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. connect with a natural gas pipeline system it operates in Egan, LA. Columbia Gulf and Tennessee Gas co−own and operate that natural gas facility, but Columbia refused to allow Tennessee Gas to build a connection from one of its lines to the project, FERC said. FERC alleged that Columbia Gulf created unneeded obstacles to the project and didn't work with Tennessee Gas as ordered by the commission.
FERC press release: http://www.ferc.gov/press−room/press−releases/2007/2007−2/05−21−07.asp
FERC decision: http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/Files/20070521134349−IN07−25−000.pdf
Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/05/21/ap3743943.html

5. *May 21, Department of Energy* — **Report: World energy use projected to grow 57 percent between 2004 and 2030.** World marketed energy consumption is projected to grow by 57 percent between 2004 and 2030, according to the International Energy Outlook 2007 (IEO2007) released Monday, May 21, by the Energy Information Administration (EIA). The IEO2007 shows the most rapid growth in energy demand for nations outside the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), especially in non−OECD Asia, where strong projected economic growth drives the increase in energy use. Global energy demand grows despite the relatively high world oil and natural gas prices in the reference case. However, rising oil prices dampen growth in demand for petroleum and other liquids fuels after 2015 and, as a result, reducing their share of overall energy use from 38 percent in 2004 to a projected 34 percent in 2030. In contrast, the energy shares of natural gas, coal, and renewable energy sources are expected to grow over this period. Liquids consumption is still expected to grow strongly, however, reaching 118 million barrels per day in 2030. The United States, China, and India together account for nearly half of the projected growth in world liquids use.
Report: http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/ieo/index.html
Source: http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/press/press283.html

6. *May 21, Beacon Journal (OH)* — **Akron sludge plant will be first in nation to create electricity with aid of bacteria.** By late this year, Akron, OH, hopes to be turning sewage sludge into electricity. The city and KB Compost Services Inc. began construction in September of a $7 million plant −− the first of its kind in the U.S. −− that will rely on bacteria to feed on sludge to produce a gas that can power an electric generator. The new facility is similar to about 200 plants in Europe and Asia developed by a German company, Schmack Biogas AG. The system relies on bacteria that do not need oxygen −− a process known as anaerobic digestion. Instead, the bacteria cause the sewage sludge to ferment. The bacteria multiply, consume part of the sludge and produce a methane−rich burnable gas called biogas. The new facility will consume about 20 to 30 percent of the 335 kilowatts expected to be generated by the new process, and the remainder will help power other operations at the sewage treatment plant −− although the city could opt to sell the gas rather than produce electricity. The initial phase would produce enough electricity to power about 200 homes. The entire sewage treatment plant requires about 2.8 megawatts, or enough to power 1,700 houses.
Source: http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/news/nation/17257774.htm

[Return to top]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

7. *May 22, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette (IN)* — **Break in gas line forces evacuation.** Ligonier, IN, residents in a 10−block area were evacuated after a natural gas line was broken by excavators working in the area. The gas leak occurred near Third and Grant streets, about two blocks south of Lincolnway West. Excavators were digging when a two−inch gas main was broken by construction machinery. Residents home at the time of the leak were evacuated. The gas line was repaired within an hour. Lincolnway West was closed for about an hour during the leak because wind was blowing the gas in the direction of the highway.
Source: http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/news/local/17262 514.htm

8. *May 21, KDBC−TV 4 (TX)* — **Thousands evacuated due to plant fire.** Hundreds of firefighters battled a recycling plant fire in the Montana Vista area, TX, that broke out just before noon CDT Monday, May 21, on 3821 Rene Drive. Thousands of residents with homes near the fire were evacuated because health officials said the smoke was toxic. The El Paso City County Health Department determined the black smoke was full of toxins and recommended everyone in the area be evacuated. Fire investigators say propane, plastics and jet engines that burned at the plant caused the toxic fumes. About a one thousand people in and around were evacuated and taken a Red Cross shelter that was set up at Red Sands Elementary School. Officials lifted the mandatory evacuation around 6:30 CDT and evacuees were allowed to return to their homes.
Source: http://www.kdbc.com/news/local/7617096.html

[Return to top]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *May 21, Computerworld* — **Thousands of Illinois realtors, mortgage brokers warned of data compromise.** The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) is sending out letters to an estimated 300,000 licensees and applicants informing them of a potential compromise of their names, Social Security numbers and other personal data. The warning follows the May 3 discovery of a security breach involving a storage server at the agency. Among those affected by the breach are real estate and mortgage brokers, pawn shop owners and loan originators licensed to operate in the state. The potentially compromised data is between six and 12 months old and includes names of people who may have applied for licenses with IDFPR, said Susan Hofer, a spokesperson for the agency. She added that manner in which the data was stored makes it difficult for someone to link the stored names on the compromised server with Social Security numbers. In addition, the presence of a "second firewall" in front of the stored data makes it unlikely that the information itself was accessed, she said. The breach was appears to have been perpetrated from outside the agency. According IDFPR, a preliminary investigation revealed that the server was compromised sometime in

January 2007.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9020218&intsrc=news_list

10. *May 21, Times−Union (FL)* — **Stolen employee information nets no prison time, but restitution.** A judge on Monday, May 21, ordered a former computer consultant for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida to reimburse the Jacksonville−based health insurer $580,000 for expenses related to his theft of 27,000 employee names and Social Security numbers. But prosecutors agreed not to seek any prison time for Paul Jason Clifton after determining he didn't disseminate or misuse the information he e−mailed to his home in Texas last year. Instead, U.S. District Judge Timothy Corrigan placed Clifton on probation for three years and included the hefty restitution order to repay Florida's largest health insurer mostly for credit protection for the affected employees. Clifton pleaded guilty in November to a misdemeanor count of exceeding authorized access to a protected computer. He was arrested in February 2006 at his San Antonio home after the FBI said he accessed a computer database of Blue Cross employees and transferred 27,000 files to himself. At the time, he was an independent contractor working on electronic storage of Blue Cross databases. Clifton accessed the information to check his pay against other Blue Cross computer consultants.
Source: http://www.jacksonville.com/tu−online/stories/052107/met_171 666534.shtml

11. *May 21, The Record (NJ)* — **Columbia Bank says online hackers breached security.** Columbia Bank, which has the largest share of deposits in Fair Lawn, NJ, has notified its online banking customers of a security breach that could make them vulnerable to identity theft. Hackers gained access to customers' names and Social Security numbers. "The intrusion affected all of our customers who have online banking," Chief Executive Officer Raymond G. Hallock said Monday, May 21. Account numbers and passwords were not accessed, Hallock said. He declined to say how many Social Security numbers may have been accessed.
Source: http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXkzJmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXk3MTM4Njk2JnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mg

12. *May 21, Finextra (UK)* — **Cyber scammers target accounts with 'one cent deposit' scam.** Online scammers in the U.S. have hit upon a new scam which appears to target validation weaknesses in the private automated clearinghouse system to defraud account holders. Details of the scam have been published by Air Force Link, which tells of an investigation that was launched after a Colorado airman found that his account had been wrongly debited with payments of up to $600. The withdrawals appeared to have been made by an outfit called Equity First. It appears that the scammers had been pinging account numbers until they hit an active account, into which they then deposited a single payment of one cent, and authorized a withdrawal. The automated clearinghouse is used by banks to process large volumes of payroll, credit and debit card transactions, but it also facilitates other types of payments.
Source: http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16944

[Return to top]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *May 22, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−07−841T: Rail Safety: The Federal Railroad Administration Is Better Targeting Safety Risks, but Needs to Assess Results to Determine the Impact of Its Efforts (Testimony).** Although the overall safety record in the railroad industry, as measured by the number of train accidents per million miles traveled, has improved markedly since 1980, there has been little sustained improvement over the past decade. Serious accidents resulting in injuries and deaths continue to occur, such as one in Graniteville, South Carolina, in 2005 that resulted in 9 deaths and 292 injuries. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) develops safety standards and inspects and enforces railroads' compliance with these standards. On January 26, 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported on FRA's overall safety oversight strategy. (See GAO−07−149.) The report discussed how FRA (1) focuses its efforts on the highest priority risks related to train accidents in planning its oversight, (2) identifies safety problems on railroad systems in carrying out its oversight, and (3) assesses the impact of its oversight efforts on safety. GAO recommended that FRA (1) put into place measures of the results of its inspection and enforcement programs and (2) evaluate its enforcement program. In its response, the Department of Transportation stated that FRA agreed to develop such measures and would consider requesting additional resources to conduct an evaluation of its enforcement program. This statement is based on GAO's recent report. http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07841thigh.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−07−841T

14. *May 22, Associated Press* — **TSA begins scanning bottled liquids.** Federal security workers have started using hand−held scanners to inspect bottled carry−on liquids for explosives at some of the nation's busiest airports, the government said. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has finished testing the device at Miami International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport. Testing is ongoing in Los Angeles, Detroit, and Las Vegas, agency spokesperson Nico Melendez said Tuesday, May 22. Testing was to begin in Boston on Wednesday. TSA expects to deploy about 200 of the devices at a number of airports around the country by October, Melendez said. The technology, which detects explosive material in sealed bottles of liquid, only is used on passengers selected for secondary inspections before boarding. The device adds another layer of security to government restrictions on carry−on liquids instituted in September following revelations in August about an alleged terrorist plot.
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36988&dcn=to daysnews

15. *May 22, Associated Press* — **U.S. House approves bill criminalizing laser−pointing.** Shining a laser pointer at an airplane could mean prison for up to five years. The House has approved a bill criminalizing that use of the cheap, hand−held laser pens. House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers warned they present "an imminent threat to aviation security and passenger safety." Florida Congressman Ric Keller, who sponsored the measure, says the Federal Aviation Administration has reported more than 500 incidents of pilots being blinded or disoriented by laser beams since 1990. Holding up a laser pointer he said he bought for $12, Keller said it has the power to cause vision problems for pilots from two miles away. The National Transportation Safety Board has documented two instances in which pilots sustained eye injuries and were incapacitated during critical phases of a flight.
Source: http://www.wlbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=6552494&nav=menu119_3

16.

May 22, Associated Press — **Private plane violates NASA airspace.** A pilot in a single−engine plane entered restricted air space over the Kennedy Space Center and was escorted down Tuesday, May 22, officials said. The incident did not disrupt the planned launch of the space shuttle Atlantis next month. The plane “was within sight of the launch pad,” said NASA spokesperson George Diller. The restricted air space is about 10 miles by 30 miles (16 by 48 kilometers) and is clearly marked on air charts, Diller said. Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, pilots have not been allowed within the area at any time. A sheriff’s office helicopter from Volusia County escorted the plane down to the Ormond Beach Municipal Airport, about 50 miles north of the space center, where it was searched for explosives and drugs, said sheriff’s spokesperson Gary Davidson. Nothing suspicious was detected, he said.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18803710/

17. *May 21, USA TODAY* — **Lines, waits at customs grow longer.** A shortage of U.S. Customs agents is leading to longer waits for arriving passengers at some gateway airports, and the problem promises to worsen with the expected summer travel rush. At Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Saturday, May 19, passengers waited up to three hours in customs lines in the Tom Bradley International Terminal, says Paul Haney, the airport's deputy executive director. About 60 percent of LAX's international traffic uses that terminal, which serves 34 foreign carriers. Recent waits have forced passengers to sometimes be held on the plane for 30 minutes before disembarking. As major airlines boost international flights this summer, officials from New York John F. Kennedy, Newark, Washington Dulles, and Los Angeles airports are worried about long processing lines for incoming international fliers. Customs and Border Protection says it has hired all the agents for which it's budgeted. With much new international service at JFK and Newark, William DeCota, aviation director at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, says he's worried about summer lines. Maximum waits at JFK stretched as long as 2 /2 hours last summer.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007−05−21−customs_N. htm

[Return to top]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

Agriculture Sector

18. *May 22, Agricultural Research Service* — **Maps predict path of destructive citrus pest.** The distribution of diaprepes root weevils (Diaprepes abbreviatus) is constrained by temperature, a key finding that could be vital to predicting and limiting the spread of this pest, according to Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists. The team of researchers, led by entomologist Steve Lapointe at the ARS Subtropical Insects Research Unit (SIRU) in Fort Pierce, FL, used probability maps to make the discovery. Since its arrival in 1964, the diaprepes root weevil has been a major contributor to the decline of Florida's citrus industry. The probability maps use a combination of soil and air temperatures to delineate the current distribution of both the diaprepes root weevil and of parasitoid insects that attack its eggs and have potential to serve as

biological controls of the pest. The researchers have shown that adult female weevils stop producing eggs at 59 degrees Fahrenheit, and the eggs themselves are highly susceptible to cold. Using this knowledge, Lapointe and his team worked with scientists from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to develop probability maps to describe the current diaprepes distribution in Florida and in portions of Texas, Arizona and California. The maps will be used to guide survey and control efforts in those states.
Source: http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261

19. *May 21, USAgNet* — **Vaccine reduces prevalence of E. coli in cattle.** Kansas State University researchers are conducting a series of studies to test a vaccine, which may reduce the presence of E. coli O157 in feedlot cattle, said T.G. Nagaraja, professor of microbiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Sixty calves were divided into three treatment groups that each received different doses of the vaccine. Group one, which was the control group, received a placebo vaccine; group two was administered two cubic centimeters (cc) of the vaccine; and group three was given three cc. The study showed that the total prevalence of E. coli O157 in cattle that received three cc of the vaccine decreased by 15 percent when compared to cattle that received a placebo, said Nagaraja. The overall prevalence for each treatment group was: 33.7 percent for the placebo group; 29.1 percent for group two which received two cc of the vaccine; and 17.7 percent for group three which received three cc.
Source: http://www.usagnet.com/story−national.php?Id=1161&yr=2007

[Return to top]

Food Sector

20. *May 22, New York Times* — **China investigates contaminated toothpaste.** Chinese authorities are investigating whether two companies exported tainted toothpaste as more contaminated product has turned up in Latin America. A team of government investigators arrived on Sunday, May 21, and closed the factory of the Danyang City Success Household Chemical Company. The government also questioned the manager of another toothpaste maker, Goldcredit International Trading, which is in Wuxi. No tainted toothpaste has been found in the U.S., but a spokesperson for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said that the agency would be taking “a hard look” at whether to issue an import alert. Authorities in the Dominican Republic said they seized 36,000 tubes of toothpaste suspected of containing diethylene glycol, an industrial solvent and prime ingredient in some antifreeze. Included were tubes of toothpaste marketed for children with bubble gum and strawberry flavors sold under the name of “Mr. Cool Junior.” Toothpaste containing the toxic solvent was also found in Panama and Australia in the last week. Diethylene glycol is the same poison that the Panamanian government unwittingly mixed into cold medicine last year, killing at least 100 people. In that case, the poison falsely labeled as glycerin, a harmless syrup, originated in China, shipping records show.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/22/business/worldbusiness/22toothpaste.html?_r=1&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin

21. *May 21, Agricultural Research Service* — **Getting a 'charge' from bugs in wheat.** Agricultural Research Service (ARS) engineer, Thomas Pearson, who works at the agency's Grain Marketing and Production Research Center, Manhattan, KN, has found a novel and

cost−effective way to detect the pesky insect larvae that occasionally use kernels of cereal grains as their homes. ARS researchers are hard at work devising new and improved methods for helping inspectors screen the U.S. grain supply, because despite rigorous scrutiny of grain at flour mills and loading docks for overseas shipments, insects remain persistent invaders of stored grains. Pearson's detection system relies on three parts: a roller system for crushing a sample of wheat, a voltage source for sending a charge through the sample, and a computer software program for measuring aspects of the sample's electrical conductance. Kernels infested with larvae cause a noticeable spike in electrical conductivity readings. Pearson intentionally infested batches of hard winter wheat and soft winter wheat with the rice weevil and lesser grain borer. He allowed the contaminated samples to incubate for several weeks so the insects had a chance to multiply and grow. Pearson's specially adapted roller mill can screen about 30,000 kernels, spotting 80 to 90 percent of those infested with insect larvae.
Source: http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2007/070521.htm

22. *May 21, North County Gazette (NY)* — **Florida man charged with selling contaminated seafood.** The president of the seafood company Atlantis Foods is the subject of federal charges which allege that he engaged in a scheme to defraud through the sale of adulterated foods and a scheme to introduce misbranded food into interstate commerce. Timothy Delong, of Boynton Beach, FL, is charged with engaging in a scheme to defraud the customers of his company, Atlantis Foods, Inc., through the sale of adulterated prepared foods. Delong was president of Atlantis Foods, which on six occasions in 2003, allegedly produced and distributed food products containing Listeria monocytogenes. According to the information, Delong failed to notify his customers after learning of the contamination and did not initiate a recall of the products. The information further charges that while Delong was president of the company did not advise its customers that it shipped and distributed its products in interstate commerce prior to obtaining the results of in−house or outside laboratory testing for pathogens. Atlantis Food also did not advise its customers that it had received positive Listeria monocytogenes results on products previously shipped and distributed to its customers.
Source: http://www.northcountrygazette.org/news/2007/05/21/bad_seafo od/

23. *May 18, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Turnip greens recalled.** McCall Farms of Effingham, SC, is voluntarily recalling more than 2,500 cases of Margaret Holmes Seasoned Turnip Greens after tests by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services confirmed trace amounts of diesel fuel in product samples, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced Friday, May 18. The recalled product was distributed to retail stores in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. State public health officials said the level of diesel fuel detected in the samples of turnip greens should not pose a health risk. The company is cooperating with state and federal authorities to determine the cause of the problem.
Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/mccallfarm05_07.html

[Return to top]

Water Sector

24. *May 19, Associated Press* — **Overflowing water tower blamed on computer glitch.** Rory Olson, Chippewa Falls, WI, city water utilities manager, said a passerby noticed the water

pouring over the top of the water tower and called police. City Engineer Rick Rubenzer said the problem resulted from the failure of a control on a computer system. "Pumps filling the water tower continued to run and were not told by the computer to stop," Rubenzer said. "The tank filled and bubbled over." The city water tower had the exact opposite problem last Thanksgiving. In that incident, the computer system mistakenly indicated the tower was full and stopped pumping water. The water level dropped low enough to cut service to part of the city.
Source: http://www.gazetteextra.com/waterglitch052007.asp

[Return to top]

Public Health Sector

25. *May 22, Reuters* — **New bird flu cases at Vietnamese duck farms.** Bird flu has killed nearly 1,900 ducks in farms across Vietnam in the past week, the government said on Tuesday, May 22, bringing to five the number of provinces struck by H5N1. Tests have confirmed the H5N1 virus infected waterfowl in three northern provinces of Son La, Quang Ninh, Nam Dinh and the southern Mekong delta city of Can Tho from May 16 to May 19, the Agriculture Ministry's Animal Health Department said. The dead ducks were found on seven farms which were raising a combined 5,850 ducks. More ducks died in a district in the central province of Nghe An, state−run Voice of Vietnam radio said.
Source: http://in.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2007−05−22T112148Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India−299369−1.xml&archived=False

26. *May 21, Agence France−Press* — **Extremely drug−resistant TB spreading in India.** Extremely drug−resistant tuberculosis (XDR−TB) is a growing problem in India affecting mostly young, working−age people, researchers said Tuesday, May 22, at the American Thoracic Society's 2007 conference. The first study of the problem in India found that XDR−TB accounted for eight percent of multi−drug resistant cases in the country. XDR−TB is even more dangerous than the already−recognized threat from multi−drug−resistant tuberculosis (MDR−TB) strains of tuberculosis resistant to at least the two first−line drugs, isoniazid and rifampicin. XDR−TB is MDR−TB that is also resistant to three or more of six classes of second−line drugs. Sushil Jain, of the Hinduja National Hospital in Mumbai, India, said his medical team examined 3,904 lab samples, finding that 1,274 were positive for TB. Thirty−two percent of the positive samples were found to be MDR−TB, out of which eight percent were XDR−TB. He said the death rate among the XDR−TB patients was an "alarmingly high" 42 percent.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070521/hl_afp/healthdisease_070521203603;_ylt=An7_qB0WIQtc1MYNueTXHiWJOrgF

27. *May 18, Associated Press* — **New Mexico health officials investigate measles case.** A 15−year−old girl from India who was visiting for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair has been hospitalized with measles, and New Mexico health officials say she was likely infectious when she was traveling and while at the fair. The New Mexico Health Department's lab confirmed the measles case Thursday. Officials said the girl, who traveled from India to Atlanta, GA, and then to Albuquerque, NM, Saturday, May 12, was admitted to a

local hospital. The Health Department said it's concerned about possible exposure at the science fair, which is being held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, and hotels where the girl stayed. The department plans to hold a vaccination clinic for fair attendees. The Health Department also is working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to identify people who may have been exposed during plane flights or at airports.
Measles information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_measles.htm
Source: http://www.macon.com/220/story/45000.html

[Return to top]

Government Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

Emergency Services Sector

28. *May 22, Newsday (NY)* — **MTA to electronically map subway system.** The New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the city's Office of Emergency Management announced Monday, May 21, a plan to map electronically every inch of the New York City subway system. The project, slated to cost about $200,000, will give first responders better information about the layout of the system in case of a terrorist attack or other emergency by making electronic versions of the subway map easily downloadable. The map, containing every exit, emergency phone, and alarm box underground, will be available at a central command headquarters that will communicate with the emergency workers on the scene.
Source: http://www.amny.com/news/local/am−map0522,0,6469388.story?coll=am−local−headlines

29. *May 21, Associated Press* — **Weapons of mass destruction team could get established in New York City.** New York City, NY, may soon be able to add a team of experts on weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) to its lineup of emergency first responders, lawmakers said Monday, May 21. Known as a Civil Support Team and made up of 22 members of the Army and Air Force National Guard, the “elite terror response team” would be on call for any crisis involving chemical, biological, or radiological agents that could inflict mass casualties. In a WMD−related crisis, the response team uses a state−of−the−art mobile laboratory to identify chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants and toxic substances, offer medical and technical expertise, and establish communications links with other agencies.
Source: http://www.freenewmexican.com/news/58854.html#

[Return to top]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

30. *May 22, IDG News Service* — **Microsoft tools keep bad Office files at bay.** Microsoft released a pair of tools on Monday, May 21, that help protect computers from Office 2003 files containing malicious software code. Both tools, which were announced earlier this month, are

designed to help defend against Office "zero−day" attacks, which take advantage of vulnerabilities before a patch is released by Microsoft. These type of attacks have become more common in recent months as attackers look for holes in Office to penetrate corporate networks. The first tool to defend against these attacks, called Microsoft Office Isolated Conversion Environment (MOICE), is meant to protect users running Office 2003 and 2007 Office. The tool does not work with other versions of Office. The second tool, called File Block Functionality for Microsoft Office 2003 and the 2007 Microsoft Office system, gives system administrators the ability to define which file types can and cannot be opened by users. This gives administrators the ability to block access to certain files when a specific threat arises, Microsoft said. Microsoft detailed MOICE and File Blocker in a security advisory, recommending that both tools be used to protect against malicious Office documents.
Microsoft Advisory: http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/937696.ms px
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/05/22/ms−tools−keep−bad−office−files−at−bay_1.html

31. *May 22, Washington Post* — **XM Satellite Radio hit by temporary outage.** XM Satellite Radio was off the air for many subscribers Monday, May 21. The company experienced a technical problem that triggered an outage lasting most of the day, causing many listeners across the country to lose access to its programming. The company blamed a software glitch for the interruption and did not say how many listeners lost their connections.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2007/05/21/AR2007052101515.html

32. *May 21, eWeek* — **IronPort revamps security monitoring site.** IronPort Systems has revised its Internet traffic monitoring Website, a resource for IT staffers searching for a real−time view into security threats. This Website provides e−mail administrators visibility into the e−mail and Web traffic coming into their networks and features a new graphical user interface company officials hope will make it easier than ever for every member of the Internet community to track spam trends, virus outbreaks, spyware and other Web−based threats. A free service, SenderBase.org can be used like a credit reporting service, providing comprehensive data that ISPs and companies can use to tell the difference between legitimate senders and attackers, IronPort officials said. Consumers, media and other parties can also use SenderBase to monitor threat activity and check their e−mail reputation scores, officials added.
SenderBase Website: http://www.senderbase.org/
Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2134577,00.asp

33. *May 21, Washington Technology* — **DHS calls for cybersecurity white papers.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is initiating an ambitious Cyber Security Research Development Center program that entails soliciting input from industry, government labs and academia on how to protect data against the latest threats and intrusions. The Science & Technology Directorate published a 43−page broad agency announcement seeking white papers on topics such as botnet and malware protection, composable and scaleable systems, cyber metrics, data visualization, routing security, process control security, real−time assessment, data anonymization and insider threat detection and management. White papers on technologies to address the threats and strengthen protections are due on June 27. Final proposals will be due on September 17.
Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/30696−1.html? topic=homeland

34. *May 21, Information Week* — **The impending Internet address shortage.** The coming shortage of Internet Protocol addresses on Monday, May 21, prompted the American Registry for Internet Numbers to call for a faster migration to the new Internet Protocol, IPv6. The current version of the Internet Protocol, IPv4, allows for over 4 billion Internet addresses. Only 19 percent of the IPv4 address space remains. Somewhere around 2012−2013, the last Internet address bloc will be assigned and the Internet will be full, in a manner of speaking. IPv6 promises some 16 billion−billion possible addresses.
Source: http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articl eID=199700668

35. *May 21, ComputerWorld* — **Office 2007 left unprotected in update snafu.** Office 2007 users running Windows Vista may not have realized that their systems had not received several of this month's patches, Microsoft Corp. said last week when it acknowledged that its security update services had failed to deploy the fixes. "We have updated the detection logic for the May 8th security and non−security updates for Office 2007," said Mark Griesi, a program manager with the Microsoft Security Response Center (MSRC), in an entry on the team's blog. "In some cases, the original detection logic may not have offered the updates or the updates may not have been installed successfully on systems running Windows Vista," Griesi added. Only Vista users with Office 2007 on their hard drives who rely on Microsoft Update or Windows Server Update Services for patches were affected, Microsoft said. The updates that may not have been deployed two weeks ago included ones for Excel 2007 and Office 2007 in general.
MSRC Blog: http://blogs.technet.com/msrc/archive/2007/05/17/new−detecti on−logic−for−may−8th−office−2007−updates.aspx
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewA rticleBasic&articleId=9020262&source=rss_topic85

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

[Return to top]

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

36. *May 21, Chicago Tribune* — **Chicago area homes evacuated after homemade bomb found.** More than a dozen homes were evacuated in south suburban Glenwood on Monday, May 21, after police found a homemade explosive device on the porch of one residence. The device, which consisted of two bottles containing an unknown substance, was reported about 8:40 a.m. CDT said Glenwood Police Sgt. Zachary Cotton. "The homeowner found it when he went to check for the newspaper this morning," Cotton said. "It appears someone attempted to light it, but the fuse didn't function properly so it did not go off." Police evacuated more than 20 homes in the surrounding area, and residents were allowed back after about three hours. The Cook

County sheriff's office bomb squad and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were contacted and they disabled the device. It has been sent to a crime lab for processing. No one was injured in the incident, and police have no suspects, Cotton said.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi−070521devicemay21,1,5372797.story?track=rss&ctrack=2&cset=true

[Return to top]

General Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]