The NRC announced that as a result of recent reports of inattentive security guards at some nuclear power plants, operators of commercial nuclear power plants and certain fuel cycle facilities must provide specific information to the agency on their security programs and practices. The NRC will review the information to determine if additional regulatory actions are warranted. (See item 7)

Reuters reports that federal health experts from the CDC will begin testing for formaldehyde in trailers provided to people displaced by Hurricane Katrina after complaints of health problems. The CDC is doing the job at the request of FEMA, who bought the trailers to provide temporary housing for displaced Gulf Coast residents. (See item 18)

Energy Sector

1. December 14, Bloomberg – (International) IEA says signs of rising OPEC output may boost supply. The International Energy Agency, an adviser to 27 nations, said signs of rising OPEC supply have helped lower prices from a record near $100 a barrel in the past month, boosting prospects for winter heating fuel consumers. Global demand in 2008 is forecast to rise 2.5 percent to 87.8 million barrels a day, the IEA said today in a report. That is 110,000 barrels a day more than last month’s estimate. Demand for 2007 was revised lower by 60,000 barrels a day. A growth in supplies from Iraq and Angola
have added about 400,000 barrels of oil supply a day between August and November, helping offset lower supplies from the United Arab Emirates because of oil-field maintenance in November. There are “early indications” of rising supplies from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in December, the Paris-based agency said.
Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=a_r_Wy3e3UAQ&refer=energy

2. **December 14, Seattle Times** – (Washington) **Windstorm prompts PSE changes.** A year after the Hanukkah Eve Wind Storm knocked out electricity to more than 1 million customers statewide — some for more than 10 days — officials at Washington’s largest energy utility concede they need to do a better job letting people know how long they will be in the dark. “We listened to our customers and we heard it over and over again...and frankly, we saw it ourselves,” said the chief operating officer for Puget Sound Energy (PSE). “We need to provide timely and accurate information.” After hiring a consulting firm to review its storm response last year, PSE is increasing efforts to clear trees away from transmission lines, assess storm damage more quickly and work more effectively with other agencies to restore power and share information.
Source: http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2004071348_pse14m.html

3. **December 14, KOTV 6 Tulsa** – (Oklahoma) **Restoring power continues in earnest.** The number of homes and businesses without electricity continues to decline across Oklahoma. Utility crews have managed to whittle the number of power outages caused by a deadly ice storm down from 600,000 at its height to 325,000. Of that number, 156,432 Oklahoma Gas and Electric customers still had no electricity, while the number of Public Service Company of Oklahoma customers without power fell to 148,310. Of that number, 143,000 PSO customers in the Tulsa area remain without power. Officials with the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives reported 25,753 outages. Other outages in northeast Oklahoma include Verdigris Valley, which reports 6,000 customers still off-line. Vinita’s Northeast Electric Co-op is working to get 5,000 homes turned on. Two-thousand-500 Indian Electric customers are without electricity and East Central Electric Co-op in Okmulgee has almost 1,700 in the dark.

4. **December 13, KMBC 9 Kansas City** – (Kansas) **110,000 customers without power in Kansas.** Warmer temperatures Thursday helped crews make a dent in the power outages across Kansas, but more than 110,000 customers were still without electricity. Nearly 50 shelters were opened for residents without power and heat, including Manhattan where nearly 12,000 customers were off line. Utility companies said it could take 10 days or more to restore everyone’s service. Tree trimmers were out in droves tending to downed and damaged limbs in the first good weather since the storm first hit Kansas over the weekend.
Chemical Industry Sector

5. December 12, Tri-City Herald – (National) Half the nation’s supply destroyed. The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency announced Tuesday that half the nation’s 30,000-ton stockpile of chemical agent used in weapons has been destroyed. More than 3 percent of that stockpile has been destroyed at Oregon’s Umatilla Chemical Depot since September 2004. There, an original stockpile of 3,719 tons has been reduced by 1,069 tons, or 29 percent, so far. The federal government began destroying its chemical weapons following a 1997 treaty with more than 170 other countries that banned the development and use of chemical weapons. Since then, two of the country’s seven chemical weapons sites have been cleaned up and closed. “Reaching the 50 percent agent destruction mark shows that the Army’s chemical weapons demilitarization program has truly hit its stride in destroying chemical agent safely and efficiently,” the agency’s acting director said in a statement. Source: http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/v-rss/story/9513907p-9424713c.html

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. December 13, Department of Energy – (Utah) Two independent assessments find the Department of Energy’s Yucca Mountain project is on track. The U.S. Department of Energy Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) today released two independent assessments addressing areas critical to the overall success of the Yucca Mountain repository program. These assessments, which include an independent review of the OCRWM Quality Assurance (QA) Program and an independent review of its engineering processes and procedures, have concluded that the Yucca Mountain Project’s current QA and engineering processes and procedures are consistent with standard nuclear industry practices. These independent reviews provide information and findings that will help ensure the Yucca Mountain Project has effective quality assurance and engineering programs that meet the highest standards of the nuclear industry. Independent assessments are a standard tool used by the nuclear industry to review processes and procedures to determine where improvements can be made. Source: http://www.energy.gov/news/5776.htm

7. December 13, Nuclear Regulatory Commission – (National) NRC seeks information on nuclear plant security policies and practices, including security officer inattentiveness. As a result of recent reports of inattentive security guards at some nuclear power plants, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission today told operators of commercial nuclear power plants and certain fuel cycle facilities they must provide specific information to the agency on their security programs and practices. The information sought includes what actions licensees have taken to ensure security officer attentiveness. The NRC will review the information to determine if additional regulatory actions are warranted. Specifically, the licensees must provide such information as their actions and management controls to detect and correct behavioral problems; details on
how the licensees are ensuring their employees report potential safety and security concerns; information on physical conditions at security posts; and results of any recent self assessments associated with these issues.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. December 13, Reuters – (National) Holidays bring scammers looking to steal cheer. The president of the North American Securities Administrators Association said high fuel costs, a volatile stock market and housing woes could lead Americans to make hasty or ill-informed investments this holiday season. Consumers should be aware that registered investment professionals are required during an unsolicited sales call to promptly tell their name, their firm’s name and address, and that the purpose of the call is to sell an investment. Gift cards, while not scams, represent another potential pitfall. Consumers often overlook gift cards’ fine print about expiration dates, fees, and other terms that reduce their value. Consumers also need to do their research when donating to charities. Most reputable charities do not use telemarketing or mass e-mail techniques seeking donations, said the chief executive of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071213/us_nm/consumer_scams_dc;_ylt=AnENcXDLONo7IouVTiPVdekWlr0F

9. December 13, Computerworld – (International) Sophisticated Trojan loots business bank accounts. A German-speaking hacker crew is looting commercial bank accounts in four countries using a custom-built Trojan put in place by expertly crafted and extremely focused phishing attacks, a security researcher said today. The malware’s most distinguishing feature is its ability to mimic the steps the human account owner would take to move money. The new Trojan has stolen hundreds of thousands from accounts at some of the biggest banks in the U.S., the U.K., Spain, and Italy. “They’ve already stolen more than $200,000 from the accounts we’ve monitored, but this has really flown under the radar.” A senior security researcher at SecureWorks Inc. said he has found at least four servers that contain Prg configuration files and bogus versions of legitimate banking sites, as well as caches of data harvested by the Trojan. “Fewer than 20 banks have been hit by this so far,” said the researcher, “but they include some of the biggest banks in the U.S., U.K., Spain, and Italy.” The surest defense against the Prg Trojan, he concluded, is to be suspicious of any e-mail received from a bank.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleI
Transportation Sector

10. December 14, Associated Press – (National) Another wintry blast targets Oklahoma, Kansas. The storm that hit Oklahoma and Kansas made travel difficult. Flights were delayed or canceled and the heavy snow snarled traffic with fender-benders from Pennsylvania to Massachusetts. Most schools canceled classes, but in Rhode Island, the storm left many Providence children stuck in buses or at school for hours. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071214/ap_on_re_us/winter_storm;_ylt=Ap4xCgqa.4AVvrgGOWUDYNcs0NUE

11. December 13, Associated Press – (Oklahoma) Passenger removed for questioning after flight diverted. Authorities say a Northwest Airlines flight was diverted to Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma, on Thursday and a passenger was removed from the plane. The airport spokeswoman said the flight made an emergency landing about 5:45 p.m. and one person was taken away for questioning. Source: http://www.kten.com/Global/story.asp?S=7495439

Postal and Shipping Sector

12. December 13, Press-Telegram – (California) AARP building evacuated. Authorities continue to investigate a suspicious substance that was sent to the American Association of Retired Persons building Thursday morning. About 250 people were evacuated from the building for about two and a half hours after the substance was found at 7:29 a.m. The suspicious package, a letter containing a white powdery substance, was the third this year sent to the AARP building and it was found on the second floor, where mail is processed, an AARP spokeswoman said. The Los Angeles County Fire Department responded and treated one person on scene who said she felt sick after being around the package. The woman was not taken to the hospital after paramedics determined she was OK. Specialists are currently trying to determine what the white powder is, but the floors were scrubbed as a safety precaution. Investigators from the U.S. Postal Service have taken over the case. Source: http://www.presstelegram.com/ci_7717154

Agriculture and Food Sector

Western states. The product recall includes all of its 20-ounce Albertsons 16-Bean Soup Mix with the UPC number 41163-48496. It is believed the product was contaminated with glass. Customers who have purchased the affected product should bring the product back to an Albertsons store for a refund or exchange.
Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_7722835

14. December 13, Kansas State News Release – (Kansas) USDA inventory of Kansas woodlands reveals mixed results. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service found both challenges and opportunities for Kansas with its latest inventory of state tree resources. “Kansas has an estimated 70.8 million dry tons of above-ground, woody biomass now growing on its forested land. That suggests an untapped resource for use in producing cellulosic ethanol and other forms of energy,” said the rural forestry coordinator for the Kansas Forest Service. Overall, the density of Kansas forests has increased, too - with large, mature trees dominating. However, unless regularly harvested or otherwise removed, the redcedar can serve as a sentinel tree, marking the start of woody plants’ encroachment into grasslands. Landowners also could make room for planting high-quality hardwoods while addressing yet another concern -- the trees that are taking up space, but are unsalable to the lumber industry -- largely due to defects or species. These “culls” make up about 46 percent of Kansas’ total woodlands. “Since USDA’s first tree inventory in 1936, our state forest has grown from one-fourth of the 4.4 million acres that were here prior to settlement. It’s now one-half,” said the rural forestry coordinator.

15. December 14, Associated Press – (North Carolina) State official: water conservation problems extend beyond drought. North Carolina leaders are looking at technology for ways to use the state’s water more efficiently. The North Carolina Division of Water Resources director said at a conference Friday that now is the time to pursue more efficient water use. Otherwise, the director said the state will have to look at curbing growth or developing smaller and more expensive water reservoirs. Officials called a conference at North Carolina State University to discuss how communities can improve their water efficiency through strategies such as constructed wetlands and rainwater harvesting.

Water Sector

16. December 13, Associated Press – (West) Western states sign historic water pact. Seven Western states signed a sweeping agreement on Thursday to conserve and share scarce Colorado River water, ending a divisive battle among the thirsty rivals. More than 30 million people in California, Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico are affected by the historic agreement. The 20-year plan resolved several legal disputes among water agencies and formalized rules to cooperate during the ongoing drought gripping the region. A key element of the drought plan lets the lower-basin states of California, Nevada, and Arizona use the vast Lake Mead reservoir behind
Hoover Dam to store water they conserve or do not need for use later.
Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8TGTT8O1&show_article=1&catnum=1

17. **December 13, United Press International** – (Pennsylvania) **Merck to improve water discharge system.** Drug giant Merck agreed to overhaul its disposal system and pay a fine for violating federal and state water pollution laws, the U.S. Justice Department said. The violations occurred at Merck’s pharmaceutical plant near Philadelphia. Merck, a global drug research company, will spend $10 million to put into place systems that will prevent future discharges at its facility, the Justice Department said Thursday in a news release. Merck also will pay $1.5 million in penalties and civil damages for past violations to the U.S. government, the state of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Merck’s actions led to an extensive fish-kill and caused the Philadelphia Water Department to shut down its drinking water operations, said the DOJ’s Environment and Natural Resources Division.

**Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

18. **December 13, Reuters** – (Louisiana) **U.S. to do health tests on Katrina victims’ trailers.** Federal health experts will begin testing for formaldehyde in trailers provided to people displaced by Hurricane Katrina after complaints of health problems, U.S. officials said on Thursday. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will conduct indoor air-quality tests for formaldehyde starting December 21 on 500 of the roughly 46,000 government-provided trailers and mobile homes in Mississippi and Louisiana, officials said. Tens of thousands of people lost homes in the hurricane’s onslaught in 2005. Some trailer residents have attributed health problems to exposure to formaldehyde. The CDC is doing the job at the request of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA bought the trailers to provide temporary housing for displaced Gulf Coast residents. Formaldehyde is a chemical used widely in the manufacture of building materials. It also is used in embalming fluid. It can irritate the skin, eyes, nose and throat, and high levels of exposure may cause some types of cancers, the CDC said.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071213/us_nm/katrina_usa_trailers_dc_1

**Government Facilities Sector**

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

19. December 12, Reuters – (International) **New satellite navigation system may save firefighters.** A new tracking system to pinpoint people inside smoke-filled buildings has been developed in a move that could reduce the risks faced by firefighters. France-based aerospace company Thales said on Wednesday that its Indoor Positioning System (IPS) was aimed initially at helping fire services, although it could also be used by the police and armed forces. Eventually, it could also be applied in the consumer market and offered as an additional service with GPS-enabled cell phones, allowing users to navigate around shopping malls or airports. The IPS system – effectively an indoor form of satellite navigation – was developed at the company’s technical laboratory in Reading, west of London. Traditional Global Positioning System devices are of no use inside buildings because their signals are too weak and frequently bounce off surfaces, causing confusion. A Thales spokeswoman said the new system was based on a new kind of radio signal, called ultrawideband, designed for very short range and high data-rate links. It uses radio pulses that can, for example, establish the positions of firefighters inside a building with respect to one another and to fire trucks outside. Source: [http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=wireless_networking&articleId=9052782&taxonomyId=79&intsrc=kc_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=wireless_networking&articleId=9052782&taxonomyId=79&intsrc=kc_top)

Information Technology

20. December 13, Reuters – (International) **Russian computer program fakes chatroom flirting.** Internet chatroom romantics beware: your next chat may be with a clinical computer, not a passionate person, trying to win your personal data and not your heart, an online security firm says. An Australian anti-virus software firm, PC Tools, has warned that the software could be abused by identity fraudsters trying to harvest people’s personal details online. The Russian site denied it was intended for identity fraud. A spokesman for PC Tools said the program had a “terrifyingly well-organized” interaction that could fool users into giving up personal details and could easily be converted to work in other languages. “As a tool that can be used by hackers to conduct identity fraud, CyberLover demonstrates an unprecedented level of social engineering,” a Senior Malware Analyst at PC Tools said in a statement. Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071213/wr_nm/russia_internet_dc;_ylt=AsKFYTPyAsS Wg059FYbcJ_gjtBAF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071213/wr_nm/russia_internet_dc;_ylt=AsKFYTPyAsS Wg059FYbcJ_gjtBAF)

21. December 13, MacWorld – (National) **QuickTime update fixes security issues.** Apple released an update on Thursday for QuickTime that fixes several security issues in the application. Fixed in QuickTime 7.3.1 is the application’s handling of Real Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP) headers that allowed arbitrary code execution. This security issue was found in late November and a proof-of-concept was published days after it was discovered. The final security issues fixed in this update include multiple
vulnerabilities in QuickTime’s Flash media handler. With this update, the Flash media handler in QuickTime is disabled except for a limited number of existing QuickTime movies that are known to be safe, according to Apple.

Source:  
http://news.yahoo.com/s/macworld/20071213/tc_macworld/quicktime20071213;_ylt=AjqvUQCgEmdpDB_7K9uElq0jtBAF

22. December 12, MacWorld – (International) iPhone malware attacks set to go big in 2008? Security researchers are warning that the iPhone may generate a new cybercrime wave, becoming “a primary target for hackers in 2008.” Researchers predict drive-by attacks in which malware is embedded into seemingly harmless data or images designed to attack iPhone via its web browser. Arbor Networks warns of a rise in ‘Chinese on Chinese’ cybercrime in the year ahead, noting a dramatic increase in attacks on Chinese language-specific software. This reflects fast-paced increases in Chinese computer users and increasing organization among China’s cybercriminals. “2007 was the year of the browser exploit, the data breach, spyware, and the storm worm. We expect 2008 to be the year of the iPhone attack, the Chinese Hacker, P2P network spammers, and the hijacking of the Storm botnet,” Arbor Networks said.

Source:  
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=cybercrime_and_hacking&articleId=9052779&taxonomyId=82&intsrc=kc_top

**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/.

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**Communications Sector**

Nothing to report.

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**Commercial Facilities Sector**

23. December 14, Associated Press – (National) Jurors deadlock in 6 of 7 defendants in plot to destroy Sears Tower. One of seven Miami men accused of plotting to join forces with Al Qaeda to blow up Chicago’s Sears Tower was acquitted Thursday, and the case against the rest ended in a hung jury. A federal prosecutor said the government planned to retry the six next year, and the judge said a new jury would be picked starting January 7. The jury gave up on the 6 defendants after nine days of deliberations on four terrorism-related conspiracy charges that carry a combined maximum of 70 years in
prison. Prosecutors said the “Liberty City Seven” swore allegiance to Al Qaeda and hoped to forge an alliance to carry out bombings against America’s tallest skyscraper, the FBI’s Miami office, and other federal buildings. The group never actually made contact with Al Qaeda and never acquired any weapons or explosives. Instead, a paid FBI informant posed as an Al Qaeda emissary. Prosecutors said no attack was imminent, acknowledging that the alleged terror cell was “more aspirational than operational.” The government case was built largely on FBI surveillance video and some 12,000 telephone intercepts. One key piece of evidence was a video of the seven men taking an oath of loyalty to Al Qaeda and Usama bin Laden in a March 2006 ceremony. Source: http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,316789,00.html

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**National Monuments & Icons Sector**

24. *December 14, Independent Record* – (Montana) **Forest Service decision favors proposed Montana mine.** The U.S. Forest Service says a company seeking to develop a copper and silver mine beneath the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in northwestern Montana can begin digging this winter, now that the agency has reviewed its decision to allow the project. Although the mine would be beneath the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, the disturbance of the ground would be outside of wilderness boundaries. Critics of the mine declare the area to be more valuable for wildlife than for minerals. Last year, however, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said grizzly bears stood to benefit if mining proceeds, noting mitigation measures, such as buying land to protect as grizzly habitat, would leave the bears in better condition than if the mine was not developed. Two lawsuits challenging the mine are pending, according to a representative from Earthjustice, who said this week’s decision was based on a flawed analysis of likely environmental effects, including effects on grizzlies and bull trout. Source: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/12/14/ap-state-mt/d8tgt4884.txt

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**Dams Sector**

25. *December 14, Post-Bulletin* – (Minnesota) **$3 million needed to repair Rushford’s dike, pumps.** An August flood overwhelmed and severely damaged Rushford, Minnesota’s flood-control system. The system was designed to handle a flood that theoretically will happen once every century. The August flood was of a severity that should happen only once every 500 years, said a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project manager. The flood was simply too much for the dikes, he said. Bringing the system back to where it was could cost $3 million, he said. There are five pump stations, three for moving waste from sanitary sewer systems and two for pumping flood waters, he said. All were flooded, requiring replacement of electrical systems. The Corps is responsible for the two flood water stations, while the city has to pay for the other three. Once the work is done and the flood-control system is back to normal, the corps and the city can discuss whether Rushford needs a bigger system, he said.
26. **December 13, Connection** – (Virginia) **Community hears Lake Barton Dam plan.** Fairfax County, Virginia, and the federal government presented a $3 million plan to address safety and aesthetic concerns at Lake Barton during a December 10 public meeting. A Natural Resources Conservation Service official said Lake Barton faced two problems. The lake could be a flood risk to the surrounding area and does not comply with the minimum federal requirement for sediment storage, according to his presentation at the meeting. “The current conditions could cause a failure of the dam,” the official said. A breach in Barton’s dam and flood protection system would place approximately 535 residents and 840 workers in the area at risk. It would also affect 193 homes, the nearby line of the Virginia Railway Express and roads that carry about 73,800 cars on a daily basis, according to statistics provided at the presentation.


27. **December 13, Associated Press** – (International) **Olga survivors complain of late warning.** As Tropical Storm Olga hit the Dominican Republic with rain Tuesday, officials released water from the Tavera Dam into the Yaque River, a member of the committee that oversees dams during emergencies, told the Associated Press. Fearing a dam failure that could kill thousands in Santiago, the panel decided around 11 p.m. Tuesday to open all six floodgates an hour later, releasing 1.6 million gallons of water every second into the river. The late-night decision gave authorities too little time to warn people living downriver. Police and local officials took to the streets to warn that a devastating flood was on its way. Many people said they had just 15 minutes or less to flee before a wave of water 66-feet deep slammed into their homes. In total, as many as 20 people died. A senior engineering professor at a Santiago University said authorities released too much water and failed to have an effective alarm system in place. The dam committee member said the panel was aware of the danger, but was forced to release the water to avoid a collapse of the dam as rapidly accumulating water built up pressure behind it.

Source: [http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gVWJsPEiqlEu2mhBIRaxxGi8owD8TGSM683](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gVWJsPEiqlEu2mhBIRaxxGi8owD8TGSM683)
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* With December 24 being announced as a Federal Holiday there will not be a DHS Daily Report disseminated on Monday December 24. The weekend report will be disseminated on December 26.