



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 February 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- The New York Times reported a man fatally shot five people and wounded two others on Thursday evening as a City Council meeting began in Kirkwood, Missouri. The gunman shot and killed a police officer in a parking lot and another policeman and three city officials inside City Hall. The gunman was shot to death by police. (See item [28](#))
- According to the Associated Press, six people died and dozens were injured in a blast Thursday night at a sugar refinery in Port Wentworth, Georgia. Officials suspect a sugar dust explosion caused the blast. (See item [38](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

**Production Industries:** [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

## **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. *February 8, Bloomberg* – (International) **OPEC may cut output to defend \$80 oil, officials say.** The combination of falling crude prices and the dollar's 12 percent drop in the past year on a trade-weighted basis puts pressure on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to reduce supplies as slowing economies in the U.S. and Europe threaten energy demand. OPEC may cut crude production when it meets next month to keep the price above \$80 a barrel, oil ministry officials from four of the group's nations said. OPEC would trim output if prices slip to \$80, according to one delegate, while another said \$70 would be unacceptable to most members. Two of the four officials said if prices stay above \$85 the group probably will not change supplies at

its next conference on March 5. Crude oil for March delivery rose as much as 86 cents, or one percent, to \$88.97 a barrel today on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Source:

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=aVV.5LellTmE&refer=latin\\_america](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=aVV.5LellTmE&refer=latin_america)

2. *February 7, Agence France-Presse* – (Texas) **U.S. to probe worker's death at BP Texas refinery.** U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) officials said Thursday they had opened an investigation into the death of a BP worker last month at a Texas refinery owned by the British energy giant. A BP supervisor was killed January 14 when the top of a large steel filter-housing at the refinery suddenly blew off. The CSB said the man likely died from blunt force trauma and also suffered thermal injuries, but it is unclear at present what caused the accident. CSB officials said they want to ascertain what caused the BP employee's death and to make recommendations to the company to avoid a similar accident. A total of 41 people have died in workplace accidents at the sprawling facility in the past 32 years, according to the CSB.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080207/ts\\_alt\\_afp/usbritaincompanyenergybprobe\\_080207204126;\\_ylt=ApaYk0B1Vx\\_KQFZZBPL1sD\\_Ya7gF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080207/ts_alt_afp/usbritaincompanyenergybprobe_080207204126;_ylt=ApaYk0B1Vx_KQFZZBPL1sD_Ya7gF)

3. *February 7, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. proceeding with 2008 ethanol usage mandate – EPA.** Some U.S. lawmakers are concerned that an energy bill signed into law this year sets unreasonable targets for use of ethanol. An official in the Environmental Protection Administration's (EPA) Office of Air and Radiation said Thursday his agency will soon issue regulations setting U.S.-mandated ethanol use at 9 billion gallons for 2008, versus usage of about 7 billion gallons per year in 2007. Energy legislation requires a five-fold increase in ethanol use by 2022. The chairman of the Senate Energy Committee said he was concerned that the current rule might be "flawed." "While it appears likely that there will be enough ethanol and biodiesel production capacity to satisfy the requirement, it is not clear how all of this biofuel will find its way into the fuel tanks of our cars and trucks," he said. Because the law was enacted only weeks before the 2008 requirement took effect, "refiners had no opportunity to ensure that sufficient infrastructure would be in place to handle the increase," he said. The EPA official said that current U.S. ethanol capacity is adequate to meet the 2008 goal, but that "the issues will be with respect to the blending of the fuel and the penetration of the markets where it hasn't been." The EPA has not yet conducted a full assessment of the market impact of the renewable fuel mandate, and has the authority to waive usage requirements for up to 20 days if there are shortages, he said.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN0740407420080207>

4. *February 7, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. Energy Dept to track oil refinery outages.** The U.S. Energy Department plans to track outages at American oil refineries so it can address possible supply disruptions or price spikes with gasoline and other petroleum products. The energy secretary said the department's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability is developing a form to collect information on unplanned refinery outages. "The completed form would provide the department with the basic information

necessary to alert it to the existence and severity of a problem and would provide contact information should it be necessary for the department to discuss and address the issue,” he wrote in a letter to a U.S. Congressman. Separately, the energy secretary said the department’s Energy Information Administration will conduct a semiannual analysis of planned refinery outages, such as for maintenance or repairs, and their impacts on petroleum markets, using commercially available data sources. Both proposals will be published in the Federal Register for public comment.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN0735553920080207>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *February 8, Vermont Press Bureau* – (National) **Vermont Guard finds military role evolving.** According to a report issued two weeks ago by a congressional commission, National Guard branches in Vermont and the rest of the nation are ill-prepared for a biological, chemical, or nuclear attack on American soil. Sapped by its increased role both at home and abroad, the report says, the Guard lacks the equipment and manpower to effectively respond. Pentagon officials rebuffed the claim. Preparations have long been underway for terrorist scenarios; and though stretched thin domestically, they said, the U.S. forces are nonetheless capable of effectively responding to homeland catastrophes. However, the head of the Vermont National Guard said Thursday that this state is better prepared than at any time in its history to defend against an attack. Still, he added, the National Guard needs more training, equipment, and other resources. As the National Guard assumes a more prominent role in the defense of the nation, he said, it must be afforded the means necessary to accomplish the mission. According to the report, the National Guard contributes about 44 percent of the country’s military personnel, but receives only nine percent of the Pentagon budget. As the military increases its reliance on Guard forces, the report said, it must close that funding gap. Vermont has seen the formation of a Civil Support Team since 9/11. The relatively new force specializes in responding to weapons of mass destruction, including biological, chemical, and nuclear attacks.

Source:

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080208/NEWS01/802080368>

6. *February 8, WTOC 11 Savannah* – (Georgia) **U.S. Chemical Safety Board deploys to explosion at Georgia sugar refinery.** A six-member investigative team from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents, is deploying to the site of Thursday night’s explosion at the Imperial Sugar refinery in Port Wentworth, Georgia, northwest of Savannah. Preliminary media reports, citing the company chief executive, attributed the blast to an explosion of sugar dust. Dozens were reported to be critically injured, and others were reported missing. The CSB completed a study of combustible dust explosions in November 2006, which identified 281 combustible dust incidents between 1980 and 2005 that killed 119 workers and injured 718, and extensively damaged industrial facilities. A total of 24 percent of the explosions occurred in the food industry, including several at sugar plants. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical

accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

Source: [http://www.wtoctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7844124&nav=menu89\\_2](http://www.wtoctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7844124&nav=menu89_2)

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

7. *February 8, RedOrbit* – (National) **U.S. nuclear plants achieve highest generation in 2007, says NEI report.** U.S.-based nuclear power plants have posted all-time record highs in electricity production and efficiency in 2007, according to a report from nuclear industry lobbying group Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). According to preliminary figures, nuclear plants generated approximately 807 billion kilowatt-hours (kwh) of electricity in 2007, exceeding by more than two percent the previous record-high of 788.5 billion kwh of electricity set in 2004. NEI said that the 104 nuclear plants operating in 31 states also achieved a record-setting average capacity factor – a measure of online availability of power. The 2007 average of 91.8 percent surpassed the 2004 record of 90.1 percent. The industry’s average electricity production cost, encompassing expenses for uranium fuel and operations and maintenance, also set a record low in 2007, the report said. The average production cost was 1.68 cents per kwh in 2007, bettering the previous low of 1.72 cents per kwh set in 2005. NEI observed that 2007 marked the ninth straight year that the industry’s average electricity production cost has been below two cents per kwh, and the seventh straight year that nuclear plants have had the lowest production costs of any major source of electricity, including coal and natural gas-fired power plants.

Source:

[http://www.redorbit.com/news/business/1246930/us\\_nuclear\\_plants\\_achieve\\_highest\\_generation\\_in\\_2007\\_says\\_nei/](http://www.redorbit.com/news/business/1246930/us_nuclear_plants_achieve_highest_generation_in_2007_says_nei/)

8. *February 8, Treasure Coast Palm* – (Florida) **Are wind turbines a nuclear threat?** Two St. Lucie nuclear plant employees have raised safety concerns about wind turbines damaging the Florida plant, operated by Florida Power & Light Co. (FPL), but FPL officials maintain there is no danger. The concerns are raised in internal documents from FPL that were sent anonymously to a St. Lucie county attorney and released to the media on Thursday. In July, the employees said Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval of the turbines project “is unlikely due to numerous nuclear safety concerns.” The messages cite the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005 and subsequent hurricane-related upgrades made to facilities at the plant. While the plant is prepared to deal with damage caused by a thrown blade within its steam turbine generators, a blade thrown by the wind turbines could impact several other systems and that could affect the ability of the plant to safely shut down, according to the messages. One of the messages recommends discontinuing the turbines project on FPL property. A manager posted a response to the messages August 23, noting the exact locations of the turbines still was to be determined and a safety study was underway. FPL said a November study by an engineering firm found there was no danger to any part of the plant based on the current turbine sites there. An FPL spokeswoman said that there would never be any danger to the reactor and that the employee concerns revolved around “ancillary facilities.”

Source: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2008/feb/08/30are-wind-turbines-a-nuclear-threat/>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

9. *February 8, Washington Post* – (National) **Virtual personalities called a threat to U.S.** U.S. intelligence officials are cautioning that popular Internet services that enable computer users to adopt cartoon-like personas in three-dimensional online spaces also are creating security vulnerabilities by opening novel ways for terrorists and criminals to move money and organize and conduct corporate espionage. Nascent economies have sprung to life in these 3-D worlds, complete with currency, banks, and shopping malls. Intelligence officials who have examined these systems say they are convinced that the qualities that many computer users find so attractive about virtual worlds – including anonymity, global access, and the expanded ability to make financial transfers outside normal channels – have turned them into seedbeds for transnational threats. “The virtual world is the next great frontier and in some respects is still very much a Wild West environment,” a recent paper by the government’s new Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) said. “Unfortunately, what started out as a benign environment where people would congregate to share information or explore fantasy worlds is now offering the opportunity for religious/political extremists to recruit, rehearse, transfer money, and ultimately engage in information warfare or worse with impunity.” The government’s growing concern seems likely to make virtual worlds the next battlefield in the struggle over the proper limits on the government’s quest to improve security through data collection and analysis and the surveillance of commercial computer systems. Some veterans of privacy debates said they believe that law enforcement and national security authorities are preparing to make a move, through coercion or new laws, to gain access to the giant computer servers where virtual worlds reside. Intelligence officials said, however, that the spread of virtual worlds has created additional challenges because commercial services do not keep records of communication among avatars. Because of the nature of the systems, the companies also have almost no way of monitoring the creation and use of virtual buildings and training centers, some of them protected by nearly unbreakable passwords. “The challenge that we face is to be able to distinguish the fanatics from the average person looking for some simple enjoyment,” said the IARPA paper.

Source:

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080208/BIZ04/802080311/1013>

10. *February 8, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Officials warn of mail scam.** Virginia State Police and the state Board of Elections are investigating more than a dozen inquiries from residents across the state about a voter registration scam, officials said Thursday.

Officials said the residents received phony recorded phone calls Thursday and Wednesday. The caller claimed to be from the state elections board and said that residents would be receiving a voter registration packet in the mail and that the materials would need to be filled out, signed, and returned. No one reported receiving anything in the mail, state police said. “It is not the practice of the State Board of Elections to leave automated recorded messages or ask voters to return their completed voter registration forms to anyone other than to their local registrar,” said the secretary of the State Board of Elections in a news release. No calls were reported in Northern Virginia. Registrars from the counties of Amherst, Bedford, Charles City, Dickenson, Halifax, Henrico, Lancaster, Montgomery, and New Kent as well as those in the cities of Charlottesville, Danville, Galax, and Martinsville have heard from residents who have received the messages. Anyone who receives such a call or a packet in the mail is asked to call state police at 804-674-2026.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/07/AR2008020703864.html>

11. *February 8, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Computer servers from D.C. tax office found in alley.** Authorities are trying to find out how two large computer servers belonging to the District of Columbia tax office ended up in a trash alcove behind a restaurant. A building maintenance man found the 3-foot-high servers behind a Ruby Tuesday in Columbia Heights early Wednesday. The servers are labeled “Property of D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue.” Officials have not yet determined whether the servers contain any personal information about the city’s taxpayers, they said. Federal investigators want to see if the servers contain any evidence related to a multimillion-dollar embezzlement case in which two former tax office employees have been charged. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,329845,00.html>
12. *February 7, New York Times* – (National) **Scanning your money to the bank.** Soon customers will be able to deposit checks by scanning them at home and sending them electronically to their bank. No need to visit a branch or even an ATM. This is possible because of the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act, passed in 2003, which allows banks to exchange electronic images of checks. Already about half of all checks are scanned by businesses or the banks they are deposited into and not shipped in bags back to the banks on which they were drawn. Fiserv, a transaction services company, has announced new software that will enable banks to let home users deposit checks by scanning them. It already has a similar service for small and medium businesses. The United Services Automobile Association, the financial services company that serves the military, has offered deposits through scanners for two years, but the idea has not yet caught on. To use the service, consumers would sign onto their bank’s Web site, activate a piece of software, type in the amount, and then scan the front and back side of each check they want to deposit. The bank has the option of immediately sending the check image to be cleared or to have a human review it first. Fraud, of course, is an issue. Where there are scanners, of course, there may be Photoshop. And a scanner cannot detect all the anti-fraud features now built into paper checks, such as special stock and watermarks. Banking groups are developing new anti-fraud technologies that can be detected by scanners, but these have not been widely deployed. Unlike credit cards,



which have strict federal anti-fraud rules, each bank sets its own policies for check fraud. Still, there are ways to combat fraud. Fiserv and others do have software meant to analyze images for signs of fakery. And there are other models that look for suspicious patterns of behavior that may indicate fraud.

Source: <http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/02/07/scanning-your-money-to-the-bank/?ref=technology>

13. *February 7, Credit Union National Association* – (National) **Washington breach-reimbursement bill passes committee.** The Washington Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection Committee approved a bill on an 8-1 vote that would give financial institutions the ability to hold accountable businesses that handle and store unencrypted sensitive consumer information negligently. The bill, HB 2838, now moves to the House Rules Committee for further consideration. “This bill provides incentives to financial institutions to proactively protect personal consumer information, including credit and debit card numbers,” said the president/CEO of the Washington Credit Union League. The 8-1 committee vote was a surprise, considering the growing opposition to the legislation from retailers, restaurants, grocers, the National Federation of Independent Business, and banks, said the league. The Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee are tentatively scheduled to consider companion bill SB 6425 this week. The Senate version of the bill faces similar industry opposition, the league said. Source: <http://www.cuna.org/newsnow/08/system020608-1.html>

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## **Transportation Sector**

14. *February 8, Washington Post* – (National) **Airport security technology stuck in the pipeline.** The sluggish pace of technological innovation and deployment has left holes in checkpoint security that could easily be exploited by terrorists, according to government officials and outside experts. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in coming months is expected to begin the government’s first substantial investment in new checkpoint security technology since the 1970s, according to officials at the TSA, which plans to spend about \$250 million on new devices, up from about \$89 million last fiscal year. The machines include upgraded X-ray equipment that will provide multiple views of bags and hand-held scanners that can detect liquid explosives in bottles after they are identified by screeners. Still, TSA officials say it will take years for much of the new technology to reach checkpoints across the nation. And they are not sure whether the upgrades will allow them to lift nettlesome restrictions on gels and liquids in carry-on luggage. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23061459/>
15. *February 8, WOOD 8 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **All-clear at Ford Airport after package found.** Ford International Airport, Michigan, is returning to normal after a suspicious package forced the evacuation of a concourse early Friday morning. The package was found around 6 a.m. during routine X-rays at Concourse A check-in. The bag appeared to contain bomb-making materials. As a precaution, the Transportation Safety Administration closed both terminals and moved passengers to the baggage claim

and ticketing areas. The Michigan State Police Bomb Squad and bomb-sniffing dogs were brought to the airport. After careful inspection, the materials were deemed to be safe. An airport spokesman says the bag belonged to several engineers and contained materials they use in their everyday jobs. Around 8:30 a.m., passengers and employees were allowed to return to the concourses, and flights have resumed as normal. Only one delay is known at this time.

Source: <http://www.woodtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7842261&nav=0Rce>

16. *February 8, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Virginia police search for 2 stolen tanker trucks.** Prince William County police are searching for two tanker trucks that were stolen from a construction company lot in northern Virginia. An officer says police received a report shortly after 6 a.m. on Friday that the trucks had been stolen overnight from the gated lot of construction company S.W. Rodgers in the Gainesville area. A Homeland Security official told FOX News their national operations center is monitoring the situation “very closely,” but it remains a local matter, adding there are no credible threats. The officer says the trucks contain burnt oil. Both have Virginia tags, with license plate numbers TU-92271 and TW-47607. Police say it is not clear why the trucks were stolen.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,329867,00.html>

17. *February 7, Associated Press* – (International) **Pilot stabbed by woman threatening to blow up plane in New Zealand.** A knife-wielding woman stabbed the pilot of a small commuter plane in New Zealand and threatened to blow it up in an apparent hijack attempt Friday, police said. The Eagle Air Jetstream aircraft, carrying seven passengers from the regional city of Blenheim to Christchurch on South Island, landed safely and the woman was arrested. One of the aircraft’s two pilots suffered minor injuries in the attack, and the woman was restrained after the attack, a police spokesman said. Emergency vehicles, including one carrying members of the police bomb squad, surrounded the aircraft on the tarmac, and the airport was closed to incoming and outgoing flights.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,329727,00.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

18. *February 7, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington) **Man tries to mail gun parts hidden in books.** Seattle police are looking for a man who attempted to mail to Paris a box full of books packed with handgun parts and ammunition. An alert clerk at a Wallingford, Washington, UPS Store was preparing to ship the plastic-wrapped books on January 31 when she noticed that one of the hardbacks rattled, according to police reports. The woman shook the book and spotted a gun part slipping through the pages. The clerk phoned police Monday, after attempting to contact the sender. Searching the books, officers found a disassembled Beretta handgun, three loaded magazines, and two boxes of 9mm ammunition hidden in hollowed copies of Richard Tarnas’ “Cosmos and Psyche,” Isaac Asimov’s “Chronology of the World,” and a communications text. Before paying the \$236 bill with cash, the man told the clerk he hoped UPS “handled the



items more carefully than the post office,” according to reports. The clerk told police the elderly man had several noticeable liver spots on his face and spoke with a slight French accent. No arrests were made immediately after the incident.

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/350418\\_gun08.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/350418_gun08.html)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

19. *February 8, Rapid City Journal* – (South Dakota; National) **High corn prices hurting cattle feeders.** Rising corn prices have driven up the cost of feeding cattle, wiping out profits for feedlot operators and adding another element of uncertainty for ranchers looking to sell this spring’s calves next fall. One rancher told the Rapid City Journal: “We’re selling the product for the same price as a year ago, but our input costs have gone up 25 percent.” An economist with South Dakota State University’s West River Agricultural Center agreed that higher feed costs have squeezed feedlot operators who own the cattle they feed. But because of the high feed costs, feedlots are now paying a little more than they were last year for the heavier feeder calves, those weighing about 800 pounds. “With the high cost of feed and energy, they don’t really want to feed cattle as long as they have in the past,” he said.  
Source:  
<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2008/02/08/news/top/doc47aa907779df5179423249.txt>
20. *February 8, Reuters* – (International) **EU, US seek arbitration in biotech crops row.** The European Union and U.S. said on Friday they were seeking arbitration at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in their long-running row over the EU’s ban on biotech crops. But the two trading powers told the WTO’s dispute settlement body they intended to suspend the request for arbitration to give themselves more time to work out a solution, trade officials said. Crops engineered to resist pests and tolerate pesticides while improving yields are increasingly popular with farmers in rich and poor countries. But many EU consumers, keen on organic produce, are wary of eating “Frankenfoods,” while advocacy groups say genetically modified (GMO) crops threaten biodiversity. The WTO has ordered Brussels to end the ban on GMO crops, and Washington has asserted its right to retaliate if the EU fails to do so by seeking compensation equal to the lost value of exports and licensing fees. But the EU says this compensation is out of line with WTO rules, hence the need for arbitration.  
Source:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssHealthcareNews/idUSL0862630920080208?sp=true>
21. *February 7, Agriculture.com* – (National) **Weather, ethanol short-circuit the normal cattle cycle.** On Thursday, market experts told ranchers at the annual Cattle Fax Outlook Seminar at the Cattle Industry Convention in Reno, Nevada, that the cattle cycle is suffering due to the adverse effects of dry weather and ethanol production. Two years ago, most market experts thought the cattle business was headed into a multi-year expansion cycle, after several years of good prices and profits, but prolonged drought in key cow/calf areas and increased corn and feed prices due to ethanol demand has

derailed that expansion. Increasing corn and feed costs have pushed the total cost to produce a fed steer up by \$150 in the last two years, and pasture lands are being converted to row-crop acres in response to high grain prices. Other factors that are negative to growth of the nation's beef herd: escalating land values do not favor pastures and forage production; urban sprawl and recreational land use discourage livestock production; government policy towards federal land use has discouraged grazing; and the average age of producers is increasing. As a result, at a time when experts thought the cow herd would be growing, it dropped by 338,000 head last year, according to the recent government cattle inventory report.

Source:

<http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/1202425683667.xml>

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## **Water Sector**

### **22. *February 8, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Regulators tighten grip on Delta.****

Meeting in San Diego on Thursday, the state Fish and Game Commission designated longfin smelt as a candidate for the list of threatened or endangered species, meaning it must decide within a year whether to add it to one of those lists. Then the commission enacted emergency measures that give Department of Fish and Game biologists new authority to cut deliveries from massive pumps near Tracy that supply water to 25 million people in the East Bay, the San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California. The new regulations come on top of court-ordered restrictions issued in December after a federal judge determined regulators were allowing water agencies to drive Delta smelt to extinction. The twin water pumping plants near Tracy that deliver water across California are being blamed for at least part of the widespread ecological decline in the Delta. Two commissioners expressed support for a canal, which was rejected by voters 25 years ago, but is getting serious reconsideration because of the Delta's collapse. Supporters of the project argue it would eliminate the pumps' effects on fish populations, while delivering cleaner water to Californians. Opponents say that by reducing the flow of fresh water, the Delta would fill up with polluted farm runoff and sea water. The new restrictions apply only to the state-owned State Water Project. The federally owned Central Valley Project, which primarily serves large farms in the San Joaquin Valley, is unlikely to adhere immediately to the state order, water officials said. In fact, water officials argued that the commission's action might not benefit fish because reductions imposed on the state pumps might lead federal water managers to increase their pumping levels.

Source: [http://www.contracostatimes.com/ci\\_8205899?source=rss](http://www.contracostatimes.com/ci_8205899?source=rss)

### **23. *February 7, NBC 11 San Jose* – (California) **EPA threatens SJ company with fines for polluting creeks, bay.**** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced Wednesday that a San Jose, California, scrap metal company is facing possible fines of more than \$32,000 a day for violating the Clean Water Act at two of its facilities. American Metal and Iron's facilities were inspected last year by the EPA. Inspectors discovered that the Berryessa facility failed to comply with its industrial storm water

discharge permit and the commercial facility was discharging storm water without a permit. Polluted stormwater from the facilities runs into Coyote Creek and eventually into San Francisco Bay, according to the agency. “Companies such as American Metal are responsible for managing their operations to protect our waterways from industrial runoff. To protect Coyote Creek and the San Francisco Bay, American Metal and Iron needs to comply with the Clean Water Act and promptly take the steps needed to protect San Francisco Bay from pollution,” the EPA Water Division director said in a prepared statement. The company must immediately apply for a permit for its commercial facility and comply with the Berryessa facility’s current permit.

Source: <http://www.nbc11.com/news/15245515/detail.html>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

24. *February 8, Xinhua* – (International) **Man suspected of contracting bird flu in Thai north.** A man in Phichit province, located in northern Thailand, was suspected of contracting bird flu, as he was found with high fever for two days after contact with dead chickens, media reported Friday. He was admitted to the Phichit Provincial Hospital at 11 p.m. Thursday night, according to news network The Nation. His wife took him earlier to a clinic and the clinic sent him to the provincial hospital on suspicion that he had contracted bird flu. His blood sample has been sent for checking. The result of the blood test would be known in two days. On January 24, Thai authorities confirmed a new bird flu outbreak had been detected at a farm in a neighboring province after laboratory tests found H5N1 virus in dead chickens at a farm.

Source: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/08/content\\_7582065.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/08/content_7582065.htm)

25. *February 8, ABC News* – (International) **New bacterial infection linked to military.** Troops arriving home from Iraq and Afghanistan have been carrying a mysterious, deadly bacteria, according to a new magazine report. Doctors have linked the bacterium *acinetobacter baumannii* to at least seven deaths, as well as to loss of limbs and other severe ailments, according to the report, which found the bacterium has spread quickly since the war in Afghanistan began in the fall of 2001. *Acinetobacter baumannii* has been found in military hospitals in Germany, the Washington, District of Columbia, area, and Texas – the primary destinations of wounded service members from the two war zones. And it has now spread to civilians, according to the report. A retired Army colonel now teaching infectious disease medicine at the Upstate Medical University of the State University of New York said the outbreak might be the largest of its kind to spread through hospitals in history. Doctors quoted in the magazine article agreed. “Of the infectious disease problems that come out of the conflict, it is the most important complication we’ve seen,” the acting chief of infectious disease at Walter Reed Army Medical Center said in the February issue of *Proceedings*, published by the U.S. Naval Institute, a professional organization focused on naval issues. The report was released to subscribers of the magazine this week.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Germs/story?id=4233448&page=1>

26. *February 8, Triangle Business Journal* – (National) **Angier company shut down after**

**recall.** Sierra Pre-Filled, an Angier medical equipment manufacturer, is closed until further notice. Sierra, whose syringes were subject to a national recall due to bacterial contamination, also is the target of at least two lawsuits claiming the company's products are responsible for making patients seriously ill. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on January 25 issued a class 1 recall of Sierra syringes pre-filled with heparin or saline. A class 1 recall is the FDA's most serious, one reserved for situations when use of a product "will cause serious injury or death." The FDA recall was an expansion of a December 20 recall of a specific lot of pre-filled heparin syringes that had products found to be contaminated with *Serratia marcescens* bacteria. The FDA broadened the recall following reports of infections associated with Sierra's pre-filled saline syringes as well. Health officials report infections from tainted syringes in Illinois, Florida, and Texas.

Source:

<http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2008/02/11/story5.html?b=1202706000^1588627&page=2>

27. *February 7, Atlanta Journal Constitution* – (National) **FDA moves to stop sales of unapproved gout drug.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says it will take enforcement action against any company that markets unapproved injectable colchicine, a drug sanctioned to treat gout. The drug is highly toxic and can easily be given in excessive doses, especially when delivered intravenously, the agency said Wednesday. It has 50 reports of reactions to use of intravenous colchicine, including 23 deaths. The FDA warned companies that are producing and distributing unapproved colchicine products to stop making them within 30 days and to stop shipping them within 180 days. Failure to do so could lead to seizure, injunction, or "other legal action deemed appropriate by the agency," according to an FDA statement. The FDA cited three deaths last year that stemmed from compounded colchicine that, due to an error in preparation, was eight times more powerful than stated on the label. Colchicine products in pill form are not affected by the agency's edict, the FDA statement added.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/health/content/shared-auto/healthnews/prss/612487.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

28. *February 8, New York Times* – (Missouri) **Gunman kills 5 people at city council meeting.** Five people were fatally shot and two others wounded on Thursday evening by a man who opened fire as a City Council meeting began in Kirkwood, Missouri, the authorities there said. The gunman was shot to death by police. The violence began about 7 p.m., when the man approached a Kirkwood police officer in a parking lot near the police station and shot and killed the officer, a spokeswoman for the St. Louis County police, said late Thursday. Moments later, the man appeared inside City Hall, shot and killed another police officer and then fatally shot three city officials who were inside the council meeting, officials said. Two others at the meeting were also shot and wounded, one critically.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/08/us/08missouri.html?bl&ex=1202619600&en=ad5d>

[7150e39653ae&ei=5087%0A](http://www.dailyhome.com/news/2008/dh-talladega-0208-bfincher-8b07v1517.htm)

29. *February 8, Daily Home* – (Alabama) **Judicial building cleared for bomb threat Thursday.** A bomb threat was called in to the Judicial Building in Talladega, Alabama, on Thursday forcing the building to be shut down for around three hours, but an arrest was made in the case by Talladega police by the close of business. The Talladega Police chief said, “Nothing was found. We did the preventative thing with the search of the building with the bomb-sniffing dog.” The building was cleared except for law enforcement personnel before and during the search. Citizens were not allowed back inside until around noon.  
Source: <http://www.dailyhome.com/news/2008/dh-talladega-0208-bfincher-8b07v1517.htm>
30. *February 7, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **VSU dorm evacuated after bomb threat.** Police have evacuated a dorm building at Valdosta State University in Georgia for the second time in less than a week. They say the threat was placed to an administrative office just after 3:00 Thursday afternoon. Valdosta State University Police, the Valdosta Fire Department, and bomb dogs from the Moody Air Force K-9 unit are currently doing a room-to-room search of Centennial Hall. This is the fourth bomb threat this academic year, the most recent of which was to the same dorm building early Saturday, February 2, morning.  
Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=7839280&nav=5kZQ>
31. *February 7, Republican-American* – (Connecticut) **Another bomb threat at Waterbury school complex.** In Connecticut, a bomb threat at the Wallace Middle School-Crosby High School complex forced the evacuation of 2,600 students Wednesday morning, for the fourth time in a little more than a week. On Tuesday, January 29, Prospect police received a 911 call warning of a bomb in the Wallace-Crosby complex. Three more threats were called into the Waterbury dispatch center: on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of last week. Each time, the threats came at around 11 a.m. Police and school officials say they have leads, but tracking the culprit has been difficult because the threats were dialed in through a disposable cellular phone.  
Source: <http://www.rep-am.com/articles/2008/02/07/newsblog/doc47aa91a89c080788891036.txt>
32. *February 7, WVVA 6 Bluefield* – (Virginia) **Tazewell County Courthouse bomb threat.** In Virginia, the Tazewell County Courthouse was shut down Thursday after a bomb threat was called in. Just before one o’clock, courthouse officials received a phone call that there was a bomb in the building. After receiving the call, courthouse deputies evacuated the entire building and canceled court proceedings for the entire day. The courthouse is expected to re-open Friday morning, February 8.  
Source: <http://www.wvva.com/News/index.php?ID=20801>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

33. *February 7, Daily Reflector* – (North Carolina) **Training simulates attack with weapons of mass destruction.** Military helicopters circled the Pitt County Fairgrounds, North Carolina, on Wednesday as bomb-diffusing robots and emergency personnel scurried about, working to dispose of simulated weapons of mass destruction. It was only a drill, but officials say the training is necessary to ensure that responders will be prepared if such an event should ever occur locally. Local and state emergency management officials teamed with representatives of a National Guard Civil Support Team and U.S. Marines for the exercise, which is part of continual training by the National Guard with other agencies. The drill simulated an event involving chemical and explosive weapons. “In today’s society, weapons of mass destruction are something we have to be prepared for in addition to the many other emergency responses we have to be prepared to deal with,” the deputy director and fire marshal with Pitt County Emergency Management said. “This just gives us and other agencies in Pitt County the opportunity to network, partner with, and train with a military team that specializes in a response to weapons of mass destruction.”

Source: <http://www.reflector.com/local/content/news/stories/2008/02/07/Training.html>

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## **Information Technology**

34. *February 8, IDG News Service* – (National) **Mozilla patches critical Firefox flaws.** Mozilla issued ten patches on Friday for its Firefox browser, including three for critical vulnerabilities. The latest version of Firefox is now 2.0.0.12. One of the critical vulnerabilities, MFSA 2008-06, is a problem in the way the browser handles images on certain Web pages. It is possible to exploit the flaw to steal a person’s Web browsing history, forward that information, and then crash the browser. It may also be possible to run arbitrary code on a machine, Mozilla said. A second critical vulnerability can enable a privilege escalation attack or remote code execution. The last critical problem involves a memory corruption flaw that “we presume that with enough effort at least some of these could be exploited to run arbitrary code,” Mozilla said. Also notable is a fix for a problem with Mozilla’s “chrome” protocol, which is the term Mozilla uses for its user interface. The problem involves some of Firefox’s add-ons, or applications that users can download which extend browser functionality. The vulnerability would let an attacker determine what applications are installed on a person’s PC, which could give clues to how the machine could be compromised, Mozilla said. However, a victim would have to be lured to a special malicious Web page designed to take advantage of the flaw.

Source:

[http://www.infoworld.com/archives/emailPrint.jsp?R=printThis&A=/article/08/02/08/Mozilla-patches-critical-Firefox-flaws\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/archives/emailPrint.jsp?R=printThis&A=/article/08/02/08/Mozilla-patches-critical-Firefox-flaws_1.html)

35. *February 8, IDG News Service* – (International) **Antivirus company’s Web site downloads...a virus.** The Web site for Indian antivirus vendor AvSoft Technologies has been hacked and is being used to install malicious software on visitors’ computers, security researchers said Thursday. The download section of AvSoft’s S-cop Web site hosts the malicious code, according to the chief research officer with security vendor



AVG. “They let one of their pages get hit by an iFrame injection,” he said. “It shows that anyone can be a victim. ... It’s hard to protect Web servers properly.” The technique used on the site has been seen in thousands of similar hacks over the past few months. The attackers open an invisible iFrame Window within the victim’s browser, which redirects the client to another server. That server, in turn, launches attack code that attempts to install malicious software on the victim’s computer. The malicious software is a variant of the Virut virus family. The iFrame pages are commonly used by Web developers to insert content into their Web pages, but because it is possible to create an invisible iFrame window, the technology is often misused by hackers as a way to silently redirect victims to malicious Web sites. AvSoft, based in New Delhi, sells an antivirus product called SmartCOP and has sold a second antivirus product called Smartdog. The company, which is not well-known in the U.S., also specializes in recovering data lost due to virus attacks.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/020808-antivirus-companys-web-site-downloads.html>

36. *February 7, GovernmentExecutive.com* – (National) **Bush administration proposes \$7.3 billion for IT security.** President Bush’s proposed budget for fiscal 2009 includes \$7.3 billion for cybersecurity efforts – a 9.8 percent increase from last year and a 73 percent increase from fiscal 2004. According to documents issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), five agencies currently rate unsatisfactory in cybersecurity efforts, based on reports from inspectors general. The Defense Department is still undergoing an audit. Federal agencies submitted planned IT security spending to OMB as part of their budget requests. On average, agencies planned to spend 10.3 percent more on their IT security efforts in fiscal 2009, compared to the prior year. The highest increase – 129.7 percent – came from the Transportation Department, which earmarked \$765 million in cybersecurity. Defense aims to spend \$4 billion on cybersecurity efforts in fiscal 2009, a 3.4 percent increase over the enacted fiscal 2008 while the president’s budget proposed \$404 million in IT security funds for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), a five percent increase. These funds are separate from the \$294 million in the DHS budget that will go to cross-government cybersecurity efforts – most notably the continued deployment of the Einstein system, an automated process for collecting and analyzing computer security information across civilian agencies to protect against cyberthreats and intrusions.

Source: <http://govexec.com/dailyfed/0208/020708j1.htm>

37. *February 7, Government Technology* – (National) **Worm use to steal confidential data increasing in 2008.** This year has begun with alarming data: in addition to Trojans, the use of worms to steal users’ confidential data is also on the increase. According to data collected by Panda, while Trojans caused 24.41 percent of infections, worms accounted for 15.01 percent. This data contrasts with the 2007 data, in which attacks caused by worms were responsible for less than ten percent of infections. According to PandaLabs this is due to the increasing activity of Nuwar-type worms, also known as Storm Worms. Computer worms can spread rapidly on their own. However, unlike those that caused epidemics massively covered by the media, they do not seek to collapse data traffic or damage computers. Instead, their objective is to steal confidential data for online fraud

or identity-theft crimes. To do so, these worms usually arrive in messages that use social engineering techniques which refer to current affairs. They also include links redirected to pages that have been modified to automatically install other malware which steals the data, or to spoof pages similar to those used for phishing attacks. “Although we suspected this would occur, we didn’t think cyber-crooks would focus on these types of worms so soon. It is a very dangerous threat, since even though its effects are more visible than Trojans’ and they can be neutralized more easily, these worms can carry out indiscriminate ‘storm’ attacks to collect large amounts of confidential data very quickly,” claimed the technical director of PandaLabs.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/261669?topic=117671>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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

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## Communications Sector

Nothing to report.

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

### 38. *February 8, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Six found dead in Ga. sugar refinery blast.**

An explosion rocked a sugar dust refinery in Port Wentworth, Georgia, killing six, injuring dozens, and setting the waterfront facility aglow with flames against the night sky. Officials had not determined what caused the explosion Thursday night but said they suspect sugar dust, which can be volatile. The fire had been partially contained early Friday, but still was not under control, said an official of the Savannah Fire Department. “We have diminished it considerably, but we’re still struggling to get to parts of it,” he said. Authorities also were talking with the military about bringing in Chinook helicopters to dump water on the fire, he said. The blast was felt by residents throughout the Savannah suburb.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23059948>

### 39. *February 7, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Super Bowl evades mass shooting.**

A would-be bar owner, angry at being denied a liquor license, threatened to shoot people at the Super Bowl and drove to within sight of the stadium with a rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition before changing his mind, federal authorities said. The man, who ultimately turned himself in, had vowed to “shed the blood of the innocent” in a manifesto mailed Sunday to media outlets, according to court documents. The documents say he was

armed with an AR-15 assault-style rifle Sunday when he reached a parking lot near University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, where pre-game activities were happening. Authorities said in the complaint that he first thought of targeting a shopping center in north Phoenix before planning to attack the Super Bowl. The man was charged Monday with mailing threatening communications. He is being held without bail, and additional hearings have yet to be scheduled.

Source:

<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2008/football/nfl/02/07/superbowl.gunfire.ap/index.html?cnn=yes>

40. *February 7, Daily Press* – (Virginia) **Homeless man arrested after bomb threat at Target store.** Police have arrested a homeless man suspected of calling in a bomb threat to a Virginia Beach Target store. A police spokesman said a man called 911 at 2:37 p.m. Wednesday from a pay phone claiming to have placed a bomb inside the Target store. Officers evacuated the building, but the bomb squad found the store to be safe. The man has been charged with threatening to bomb, as well as public intoxication. Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-now-bombthreat.f7,0,1371620.story>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Dams Sector**

41. *February 8, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Lake Wohlford's dam could liquefy in a major quake, report says.** Two-thirds of the 422-foot-long, 100-foot-high dam at Lake Wohlford near Escondido, California, was built with sand and silt and could liquefy in a major earthquake and unleash the lake, a consultant's recent report warned. That surprised Escondido officials, who had thought the dam was safe, based on previous studies. As a precautionary measure, they have kept Lake Wohlford at half of its 6,506 acre-foot capacity, roughly 2.1 billion gallons, so that the waterline does not exceed the bottom third of the dam, which is deemed sturdy. The lake will stay half-full until the dam is fixed. If the city decides to rebuild or modify the dam, it could be years before the work can be finished because of lengthy permit procedures and engineering and construction, said a geotechnical engineering consultant hired this year to find ways to improve the dam. In the next six months, he will evaluate options, which could include: building a new dam next to the existing one, strengthening the weak portion by inserting a wall or columns, flattening the crest of the dam, and building a berm on top to weigh it down, or a combination of the above. Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/northcounty/20080208-9999-1m8wohlf.html>

42. *February 7, KLAS 8 Las Vegas* – (Nevada) **Authorities stage terror training at**

**Hoover Dam.** Some extensive training at Hoover Dam closed down the road overnight. It is only a scenario, but explosives set off by terrorists on Hoover Dam could be real – a scenario emergency responders need to be ready for. It is why training like this is critical. “Probably the majority of our officers are not familiar with the intricacies of the different tunnels and locations of wherever everything is at. We try to get familiar with the areas – the ins and outs, the canyons, the parking structures,” said an officer from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police. Security at Hoover Dam has undergone major changes since the September 11th attacks. Vehicle checkpoints are only a few of the security measures you see at the dam. They not only protect what happens on the outside of the dam, but now what happens on the inside – an area that has not been open to the public for nearly seven years. After September 11th, the dim tunnels, or inspection galleries, were closed off to the public for security reasons. But now, after nearly seven years, a tour guide once again leads visitors down the narrow tunnels. A tour favorite, walking inside the dam, is back. Now, thanks to new security measures, instead of just being on the outside looking in, you can see what it is like from the inside looking out. “We implemented some security measures which include extra guides. We have security guys inside on the tour route. There’s never anybody in here by themselves,” said a representative with the Bureau of Reclamation. Authorities with the Bureau of Reclamation say there have never been any threats against the dam, but it is always best to be prepared just in case.

Source: [http://www.lasvegasnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=7841144&nav=menu102\\_2](http://www.lasvegasnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=7841144&nav=menu102_2)

43. *February 7, Sierra Sun* – (California) **Martis Dam risks still being studied.** Field work has temporarily halted on the Martis Dam in California until the snow melts, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is still working to assess the risk the dam poses. Located three miles east of Truckee in the Martis Valley, the 36-year-old earthen-fill dam has been categorized as an “extremely high risk” by the Corps for seepage issues. Geologists blame the coarse glacial soil for the seepage that could destabilize the dam, making it one of the six riskiest dams in the nation. According to a situation report issued at the beginning of the month, only 786 acre-feet of water are in the reservoir, or about four percent of the gross pool. “Right now we are working on automation for the flood gates so we can remotely operate them,” the Corps project manager said. “Now somebody has to do it manually at the dam for flood control so inclement weather or deep snow precludes us from getting to the gates – this will increase the level of safety.” The Corps is targeting August 29, 2008 to get the automated gates in place. An investigation exploring the potential seismic activity under and around the dam is due shortly, the project manager said, and should assess how area faults could compound the problem.

Source: <http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20080207/NEWS/344456905>

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## **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

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## **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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