



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 February 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- According to NBC News and MSNBC, a man gunned down five people last Thursday inside a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University before killing himself. Police said the man had recently “become erratic” after halting his medication and carried a shotgun to campus inside a guitar case. The university’s president said he knew of no connection between the attack and threats scrawled on a dormitory bathroom wall in December. (See item [27](#))
- The Associated Press reports that the FBI has put its domestic terror squads on alert for any threats against synagogues and other potential Jewish targets in the U.S. following the killing of a Hezbollah commander last Tuesday. U.S. law enforcement officials say there have been no specific threats so far against any Jewish centers. (See item [33](#))

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 15, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Explosion reported at south Texas oil pipeline.** Fire from a pipeline explosion Friday in northern Hidalgo County, Texas, had nearly burned itself out, three hours after it began. The county emergency manager said flames from the rupture reached 400 to 500 feet. Earlier reports of one injury in the explosion were incorrect, he said. The fire marshal was investigating the cause of the

explosion. Firefighters shut flow of crude oil distillate about ten miles down the pipeline and were waiting for the rest of the crude to burn off. The pipeline is owned by Hesco. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,330799,00.html>

2. *February 14, Associated Press* – (National) **Oceans eyed as new energy source.** To scientists, the Gulf Stream represents the possibility of a new plentiful and uninterrupted source of clean energy. Florida Atlantic University researchers say the current – which rushes by at nearly 8.5 billion gallons per second – could someday be used to drive thousands of underwater turbines, produce as much energy as perhaps ten nuclear plants, and supply one-third of Florida’s electricity. There are still many unknowns and risks. A small test turbine is expected to be installed within months. Using a \$5 million research grant from the state, the university is working to develop the technology in hopes that big energy and engineering companies will eventually build huge underwater arrays of turbines. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued 47 preliminary permits for ocean, wave, and tidal energy projects, said a FERC spokeswoman. Most such permits grant rights just to study an area’s energy-producing potential, not to build anything. Researchers on the West Coast, where the currents are not as powerful, are looking instead to waves to generate power. Canada-based Finavera Renewables has received a FERC license to test a wave energy project in Washington state. The company hopes later to be the first in the U.S. to operate a commercial-scale “wave farm,” situated off northern California. A researcher at the Electric Power Research Institute said that wave- and tide-generated energy could supply only about 6.5 percent of today’s electricity needs. A Finavera spokesman acknowledged that wave energy is “definitely not the only answer” to the nation’s power needs and is never going to be as cheap as coal, but it could be “part of the energy mix.” Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8UQ9R5O0&show_article=1

3. *February 15, Houston Chronicle* – (National) **Seeing a shift in power.** The price of a megawatt of electricity used is easy to figure out, but how about the price of a megawatt saved? That is the question the electric power business is struggling with as it tries to tame the dual challenges of growing power demand and desires for a cleaner environment. Putting a price on a so-called “negawatt” means the power industry has to stop focusing just on making money from selling electricity and begin helping customers manage that expense, said the CEO of Duke Power. That will require a huge investment in technology to give customers more immediate information about their power use. Throughout the U.S., companies are trying to adapt to calls to meet growing demand in ways that produce fewer greenhouse gases. But renewables – many years from being mature – cannot fill the gap alone. This has led to a growing interest in conservation and demand-response programs, which essentially let power companies call on customers to cut usage during times of peak demand, avoiding the need to fire up more power plants. A study by the Electric Power Research Institute last year said energy-efficiency efforts are now “critically underutilized” in the U.S. and could cut the country’s overall demand for power by ten to 30 percent. The CEO of GridPoint said if the technology does not make power management easy, consumers are not likely to make the effort. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/5543924.html>

4. *February 15, CNNMoney.com* – (National) **Green lawns could lead to brownouts.** With wide swaths of the country suffering from drought conditions, water-hungry utilities scramble to meet surging energy and water demand. “We’re going to have both water and power shortages, maybe in areas where we aren’t used to them,” said the president of the Pacific Institute. “Atlanta in the last few years is a good example of that.” He said that California could achieve 95 percent of its energy conservation goals 58 percent more cheaply by targeting water consumption rather than power consumption. “Water and energy are tightly linked, but these links are poorly understood and rarely used in policy,” he said. Utilities are struggling with this issue as they attempt to build new power plants amid the current water shortage in large parts of the Southeast and Southwest. “Water is becoming one of the most contentious issues when siting a new power plant,” said an energy consultant. Most types of power plants use water for cooling. About 40 percent of the freshwater used in the U.S. – or 136 billion gallons a day – is used for power generation, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. While most of this water is returned to the source, about 3 billion gallons a day are lost to evaporation. In places where water sources are drying up, utilities are finding ways to cut its water use or utilize new reserves.
- Source:
http://money.cnn.com/2008/02/14/news/companies/water_power/?postversion=2008021511

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *February 15, Examiner* – (National) **Feds pledge new policies on guards, whistle-blowers at nuclear plants.** Security guards caught sleeping on the job last year at Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania have spurred federal regulators to pledge more frequent inspections and more open channels for whistle-blowers, authorities said this week. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) vowed to have more oversight of internal investigations, especially after facing sharp criticism for turning over the investigation of the sleeping guards to the plant managers accused of ignoring it. The NRC said it would more closely supervise the way it forwards complaints to the energy companies running the nuclear plants, review its own policies for taking complaints from whistle-blowers, and conduct more frequent inspections for inattentive guards. “We have never seen one incident have such a ripple effect throughout the entire industry and regulatory environment,” said an investigator for a watchdog group that has been critiquing the NRC’s response to the incident. He said he was pleased to see the NRC moving toward greater oversight and paying more attention to whistle-blowers, but he still hoped the NRC would address the long shifts, boring environments, and

inadequate supervision that led to the guards falling asleep on duty.

Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1222513~Feds_pledge_new_policies_on_guards_whistle_blowers_at_nuclear_plants.html?cid=rss-Baltimore

6. *February 15, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Emergency sirens down for an hour at nuclear plant.** Operators of the Shearon Harris nuclear plant near Raleigh, North Carolina, say the plant's emergency sirens malfunctioned for more than an hour last month. The plant is operated by Progress Energy Inc. The utility reported the facility's 81 off-site sirens were down for between 70 and 80 minutes on January 30. Operators repaired the system's power supply, and the sirens are now fully functional.
Source:
http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ/MGArticle/WSJ_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173354621812
7. *February 14, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **5 Browns Ferry nuclear reactor shutdowns attract NRC scrutiny.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will increase monitoring at the Browns Ferry nuclear plant in northeast Alabama because of five unplanned shutdowns since May. The plant has been downgraded from a "green" to a "yellow" classification in one of the NRC's safety categories. An NRC spokesman said five outages since the plant's Unit 1 reactor was restarted in May 2007 were the most of any plant in the country.
Source:
http://www.myeyewitnessnews.com/news/state/story.aspx?content_id=cb0690e0-3c9c-401b-a3b2-9d55f04b2180&rss=60

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *February 14, Associated Press* – (National) **Air Force scales back Lockheed contract.** Facing cost overruns of nearly 50 percent, the Air Force is scaling back a Lockheed Martin Corp. engine-replacement contract to \$7.7 billion from \$11.1 billion. The Pentagon will abandon plans to replace aging engines in 62 C-5A Galaxy transport planes, an under secretary of defense said Thursday. The Air Force will proceed with engine replacements in 47 C5-B planes and two C5-C planes. In November 2001, the Air Force awarded Lockheed an \$11.1 billion contract to replace old engines in all 111 planes, which were built by the company. The cost of the program reached \$17.5 billion in September 2007, the Air Force said. Cost overruns have triggered a Nunn-McCurdy violation, which requires the Pentagon to notify Congress when cost growth on a major acquisition program reaches 15 percent. The under secretary said that under the new contract, Lockheed's costs cannot exceed \$123 million per plane.
Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/newstex/AFX-0013-23039213.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *February 15, OUT-LAW.com* – (National) **Bank scammers scammed, says security researcher.** Many of the people behind identity theft scams are themselves having data stolen from them in the process, a security researcher has revealed. Phishers, who trick online banking users into typing in their details to fake sites, use tools in the process which have built-in security holes for others to access the data that many do not have the technical skills to spot, according to the researcher. He claims that most phishers are far from the technical sophisticates of the popular imagination. Most, he said, use pre-written phishing kits that take little skill to operate. “All the research we’ve done is just basically what you can do from a web browser without even crossing the line where it’s called hacking.” He said it was extremely easy to come across details that had been stolen just hours previously. “Within 15 minutes of starting this research we were staring at people’s bank accounts and credit card numbers and ATM PIN numbers posted on international message boards,” he said. But the authors of the phishing kits are using more junior phishers to do the work for them. When both researchers looked at the computer code in the kits, they found that it had two different instructions commanding the system to email a victim’s details. “So unbeknown to the phisher deploying this kit, his information from the victim is going to him in addition to the author who wrote this kit, so there you have a phisher phishing a phisher.”

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/02/15/bank_scammers_scammed/

10. *February 14, Associated Press* – (California) **Computer stolen also contained info of Clovis school employees.** A computer stolen earlier this week from a Southern California company contained the personal information of 4,000 employees of Clovis schools, as well as data about workers at 15 other organizations. Systematic Automation Inc. had said information about 3,500 employees of the Modesto City Schools was compromised in the burglary. Wednesday, a spokeswoman for the Clovis district said the stolen computer also contained the names, addresses, salaries, and Social Security numbers of local workers. No related cases of identity theft have been reported by employees of Clovis schools.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2008/02/14/state/n120113S89.DTL>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

11. *February 15, Associated Press* – (Texas) **International bridge operating normally after bomb threat.** The Progreso International Bridge over the Rio Grande was operating normally after a bomb scare shut it down for nearly four hours, officials said Friday. A U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman said nothing was found Thursday night and everything was fully operational on the bridge. The threat came in a call around 7 p.m. Thursday, he said.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/ap/tx/5544684.html>

12. *February 15, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Port of Oakland nets nearly \$4 million to boost security.** The Port of Oakland will receive almost \$4 million to beef up its security as its governor disperses a total of \$40 million for 11 of California's ports. The 11 ports were approved for funding by Proposition 1B under the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006. Prop. 1B approved \$20 billion to enhance safety and security in the state's transportation systems, as well as ameliorating its air quality. Of that fund, \$1 billion will be allocated to the ports and mass transit systems. California's ports handle nearly half of the nation's containerized goods. A port spokesperson said Oakland's allotment will be used to employ a truck-tracking and reporting system to follow the movements of individual trucks moving throughout the port and its terminals. "The main goals for these ports will be cameras, surveillance control, and procuring detection systems to control these threats: CBRNE – chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, and explosive threats," said the deputy director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security in Sacramento. Prop. 1B funds are part of a plan to protect 37 million residents from man-made or natural disasters, and it will supplement nearly \$171 million coming to the state from Federal Department of Homeland Security Grants Funding.
Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/ci_8270228?source=rss
13. *February 15, WDIV 4 Detroit* – (Michigan) **Armed man arrested at Metro Airport.** An armed man was arrested outside of the McNamara Terminal at Detroit Metro Airport in Romulus on Thursday afternoon. Airport officials said the man was found in his car with a loaded weapon. It is unclear what kind of weapon he was carrying at this time. Police also found an open container of alcohol. No injuries were reported.
Source: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/15305337/detail.html>
14. *February 14, Associated Press* – (California) **3 flights diverted from San Diego.** Three flights were diverted Thursday from landing at San Diego's Lindbergh Field and departures were briefly halted after a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) radar facility briefly lost some of its radio communication capabilities. The outage at the Terminal Radar Approach Control center near Marine Corps Air Station Miramar lasted from 11:45 a.m. to shortly after noon, a FAA spokesman said. The outage forced the diversion of two flights to Phoenix and one to Los Angeles, airport officials said. It also delayed the departures of 18 flights, the official said. The FAA is investigating the cause of the outage. Meanwhile, a Continental Express flight carrying 53 passengers from Hartford, Connecticut, to Cleveland, Ohio, made an emergency landing in Syracuse, New York, after the pilot reported a strange odor in the cockpit. A commissioner of aviation at Syracuse's Hancock International Airport, said there were no injuries, and that investigators believe the odor may have come from an overheated wire.
Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jMJq5oNptpCCotld4B-tR6swfnpgD8UQCN002>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *February 15, KCTV 5 Kansas City* – (Missouri) **Crews test substance found at IRS.**

Police and fire crews responded to a “credible threat” in the mailroom at the Internal Revenue Service office early Friday morning. Officers were called about an unknown substance that appeared in the mailroom, police said. The mailroom was evacuated and shut down while hazmat crews evaluated the substance that was found in a bin of mail in the mailroom. Hazmat officials said that initial reports came back “negative” on the yellow substance. Officials indicated they believed the substance to be harmless. The FBI will now handle the case, police said.

Source: <http://www.kctv5.com/news/15309283/detail.html>

16. *February 14, Times-Journal* – (Alabama) **FBI joins explosion investigation.** The FBI is now investigating an explosion that destroyed a Kilpatrick, Alabama, couple’s mailbox more than a week ago. The DeKalb County sheriff also said Thursday authorities were questioning suspects. He did not have a motive and would not release any of the suspects’ names. “All I can say at this time is that we are questioning everyone, and still believe that it could have possibly been a pipe bomb that destroyed the mailbox,” he said. “But if it wasn’t, we are pretty sure it was some type of homemade device.”

Source: <http://times-journal.com/story.lasso?ewcd=50e133ec7f943591&-session=FPTJ:42F94369053a028011IRkH155B51>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *February 15, Los Angeles Times* – (California; National) **Officials call for safety probe of school meat supply.** A California congressman and other lawmakers called Thursday for an independent investigation into the safety of food supplied by Hallmark Meat Packing – based in Chino, California – to schools across the nation through a federal program. The action comes in response to allegations and supporting undercover video evidence that at-risk cattle were slaughtered at one of the school nutrition program’s top suppliers. Steps taken by the department after the video’s release “leave unanswered a larger question about the overall effectiveness of the federal government’s effort to ensure the safety of meat in the school food supply,” lawmakers wrote in the letter. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) last week suspended inspections at Hallmark Meat Packing, effectively shuttering the plant, saying the plant’s handling practices were inadequate. The plant may not reopen until a plan for corrective action is submitted and approved by federal authorities. School districts nationwide have pulled suspect beef from their cafeteria menus, although the USDA has said no evidence was found of “downer” cattle entering the food supply.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/politics/cal/la-me-meat15feb15,1,2066362.story>

18. *February 14, WKMG 6 Orlando* – (Florida) **Metal-filled lollipops seized by deputies at elementary school.** The importer of a Valentine’s Day lollipop announced it was recalling some 400,000 of the treats after metal fragments were found in lollipops sold at separate stores in Central Florida. The Polk County Sheriff’s Office seized the Pokemon brand lollipops filled with metal shavings meant for an elementary school Valentine’s

Day party less than a day after a woman found a blade in her child's candy. Deputies confiscated the lollipops from Kathleen Elementary School Thursday. The candy, which was imported from China, was purchased from a Dollar General Store in Polk County, the sheriff's office said. Dollar General removed it from the shelves of more than 8,000 stores nationwide. No injuries have been reported, and it was unclear whether the metal was intentionally placed in the candy.

Source: <http://www.local6.com/news/15304726/detail.html>

19. *February 14, ThePacker.com* – (California) **California officials finalize plan for apple moth.** After a year of tracking North America's first known infestation of the light brown apple moth, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have put the finishing touches on a 2008 action plan designed to eradicate the pest. Officials of both agencies caution the task could last several years. Aerial spraying of a moth pheromone will be the primary tool in the action plan, said a spokesman for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The pheromone – which is harmless to humans, pets, and plants – disrupts the breeding of the pest. Commodity Credit Corporation, a division of the USDA, put up \$74.5 million last month to eliminate the apple moth and to underwrite a national survey to determine whether the pest has infested other states. The aerial treatments are scheduled to begin June 1 in the infested areas of Monterey and Santa Cruz counties with additional spraying scheduled to begin August 1 in and around San Francisco and Oakland. The infestation appears to be confined to a total of nine northern California counties. Another tool scheduled to be used in the spring is the release of a tiny wasp, the trichogramma. The stingerless wasp, the larvae of which destroy moth eggs, is indigenous to California, but its use is limited. A USDA study concluded that if the moth infested growing regions of California, losses due to crop damage could exceed \$600 million annually.

Source: <http://thepacker.com/icms/dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-125540-589.asp&stype=topnews&fb>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

20. *February 15, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Colorado town fears avalanche of water.** More than one billion gallons of contaminated water – enough to fill 1,500 Olympic-sized swimming pools – is trapped in a tunnel in the mountains above the historic town of Leadville and threatening to blow. Lake County Commissioners have declared a local state of emergency for fear that this winter's above-average snowpack will melt and cause a catastrophic tidal wave. The water is backed up in abandoned mine shafts and a 2.1-mile drainage tunnel is partially collapsed, creating the pooling of water contaminated with heavy metals. County officials have been nervously monitoring the rising water pressure inside the mine shafts for about two years. An explosion could inundate Leadville and contaminate the Arkansas River. State and federal officials agreed Thursday to conduct a risk assessment before taking any action. Critics said something should be done immediately to ease the pressure. A spokesman for the Bureau of Reclamation, which acquired the drainage tunnel in 1959, said there was no

immediate threat to Leadville's 2,700 residents.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jZu_kACT9XIYYzSCzey06LvOSSeAD8UQL4800

21. *February 14, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **PCB limits could cost governments millions.** Bay Area cities and counties could face hundreds of millions of dollars in higher annual costs to eliminate industrial chemicals called PCBs from storm runoff, under pollution limits adopted Wednesday by a state water board. Responding to health concerns about people who eat PCB-laden fish, the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted the first-ever mass limit on PCBs entering the Bay. Even though the manufacture of polychlorinated biphenyls was banned in 1979, they persist in soil and water and continue to wash into the Bay. Under the new limits, PCBs entering the Bay must be reduced from about 34 kilograms per year to no more than ten kilograms in the next 30 to 35 years. The greatest reduction must come from the largest PCB source: tainted stormwater that flows untreated into the Bay. Under the plan, city and county stormwater programs will be responsible for the cost of removing PCBs before the chemicals reach the Bay. Stormwater programs must cut PCB contribution from 20 kilograms to two kilograms per year.

Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/environment/ci_8259562

22. *February 14, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **State's request could mean less water for metro Atlanta.** Georgia wants the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to further reduce the amount of water flowing out of Lake Lanier for metro Atlanta's needs, a request that has alarmed the city of Atlanta, downstream communities, and environmentalists. In a letter sent this week, the state Environmental Protection Division (EPD) director asked the Corps to keep an additional 130 million gallons of water a day in the federal reservoir, "in order to preserve valuable storage in Lake Lanier for future use during this exceptional drought." She has requested the lower flows through April 30. After that, water demands increase and water quality begins to worsen as temperature rises. She said EPD evaluated the request and determined the river will still have a sufficient amount of dissolved oxygen to protect water quality through the end of April.

Source: http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/02/14/water_0215.html

23. *February 14, Associated Press* – (Alabama; Florida; Georgia) **Deadline for southern water deal to pass.** The governors of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia will miss a Bush administration-imposed deadline Friday for settling their 20-year fight over sharing water in the region's rivers. Officials said the states have made progress in recent months after the president sent the Interior secretary to mediate a compromise as a record drought threatened Atlanta's drinking supply. But instead of announcing a long-term pact on Friday as planned, they will offer more of a status report. The secretary, who stated he was briefed on the talks Wednesday night, said he would wait to get details on how close the parties are before deciding whether to set a new deadline. If they remain far apart, he said, he will not. The dispute centers on how much water the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers holds back in federal reservoirs near the head of two

river basins in north Georgia that flow south into Florida and Alabama.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iYOMIAzXREFVjcYtNagkheasCXwAD8UQA9801>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *February 15, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **‘Superbug’ staph reports required.** Responding to concerns about antibiotic-resistant “superbug” staph infections, California will now require local health departments to report all severe infections originating outside healthcare facilities, but not cases contracted in hospitals or nursing homes. The policy, announced Thursday by the California Department of Public Health, attempts to track severe staph infections including methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) that result in the hospitalization or death of healthy people. Some healthcare watchdogs, saying the policy is too narrow, want the state to track severe MRSA infections that occur at healthcare facilities too, much as Tennessee does. Although the state has the authority to add MRSA to the list of diseases hospitals must track, state health officials say the requirement could prove burdensome, because many hospital staph infections are minor, resulting in boils and other skins problems that are easily treatable. The most recent study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that in 2005, MRSA sickened an estimated 94,000 Americans and killed almost 19,000. Studies show that about 80 percent of MRSA infections occur in healthcare facilities.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-staph15feb15,1,6550475.story>
25. *February 15, New York Times* – (International) **FDA broke its rules by not inspecting Chinese plant with problem drug.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) violated its own policies when it approved for sale a crucial blood-thinning drug without first inspecting a Chinese plant which, along with a plant in Wisconsin, made the drug’s active pharmaceutical ingredient. “It was obviously a glitch” that the drug, heparin, produced and sold by Baxter International, was approved for sale without a plant inspection, said an FDA spokeswoman. The agency does not know who was at fault, and it is still “preparing to send inspectors” to China, she said. The chairman of a House investigative subcommittee said that no matter what happened with the heparin inquiry, the FDA’s inability to provide basic information about the Chinese manufacturing plant weeks after concerns were first raised was deeply troubling. Baxter International announced on Monday that it was suspending sales of its multidose vials of heparin after four patients died and 350 suffered complications, many of them serious. Baxter bought the active ingredient for this product from Scientific Protein Laboratories, which has plants in Waunakee, Wisconsin, and Changzhou City, China.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/15/washington/15fda.html?ref=us>
26. *February 14, Reuters* – (International) **Bird flu spreads to another Bangladesh district.** Bird flu has spread to another district in Bangladesh despite massive culling by

authorities to contain the outbreak, officials said on Friday, bringing the number of affected districts to 42 out of 64. Veterinary workers culled nearly 25,000 birds after tests confirmed some chickens had died from the avian influenza virus in Comilla, in the south east, livestock officials said. The H5N1 virus, first detected in Bangladesh in March last year, was quickly brought under control through aggressive measures, including culling. But it reappeared a few months ago, apparently because of lax follow-up monitoring, experts say. Officials said the government was taking measures to contain the spread of the disease, but ignorance among millions of farmers across the country remained a stumbling block. The government has raised compensation for poultry farmers to encourage them to report and kill sick birds as part of efforts to stamp out the outbreak. More than 600,000 birds have been culled across the country against the virus since March 2007, but it continues to spread and now covers nearly two-thirds of the country of more than 140 million people. So far, no human infections have been reported.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSDHA255572>

Government Facilities Sector

27. *February 15, NBC News and MSNBC* – (Illinois) **College shooter stopped taking his medications.** The man who gunned down five people at Northern Illinois University in a suicidal rampage had recently “become erratic” after halting his medication and carried a shotgun to campus inside a guitar case, police said Friday. The man, 27-year-old former student, was also wielding three handguns during Thursday’s attack inside a lecture hall. The Campus Police chief said investigators have recovered 48 shell casings and six shotgun shells following Thursday’s attack. The gunman paused to reload his shotgun after opening fire on a crowd of students in a geology class. Officials said they had no hint that the shooter was a threat. “There is no note or threat that I know of,” the Northern Illinois University president said on Friday. All classes were canceled Thursday night and the campus was closed on Friday. The school was closed for one day during final exam week in December after campus police found threats, including racial slurs and references to shootings earlier in the year at Virginia Tech, scrawled on a bathroom wall in a dormitory. Police determined after an investigation that there was no imminent threat and the campus was reopened. The university’s president said he knew of no connection between that incident and Thursday’s attack.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23171567/>

28. *February 14, KTVU 2 San Francisco* – (California) **San Quentin spill likely caused by pump malfunction.** Untreated sewage that leaked from the San Quentin State Prison into San Francisco Bay Thursday morning spilled into a prison parking lot before reaching the water, and not all of the estimated 1,500 gallons spilled made it into the bay, according to initial reports from the Marin County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services. Authorities said a pump station malfunction caused sewage to leak from a manhole cover into a parking lot on the northeast end of the prison, said the assistant director of the county’s Community Development Agency.

Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/15305142/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

29. *February 14, Associated Press* – (National) **Use of rogue DNS servers on rise.**

Mendacious machines controlled by hackers that reroute Internet traffic from infected computers to fraudulent Web sites are increasingly being used to launch attacks, according to a paper published this week by researchers with the Georgia Institute of Technology and Google Inc. The paper estimates roughly 68,000 servers on the Internet are returning malicious Domain Name System results, which means that people with compromised computers are sometimes being directed to the wrong Web sites – and often have no idea. The peer-reviewed paper, which offers one of the broadest measurements yet of the number of rogue DNS servers, was presented at the Internet Society's Network and Distributed System Security Symposium in San Diego. The fraud works like this: When a user with an affected computer tries to go to, for example, Google's Web site, they are redirected to a spoof site loaded with malicious code or to a wall of ads whose profits flow back to the hackers. The hackers who hijack DNS queries are looking to steal personal information – from e-mail login credentials to credit data – and take over infected machines. The spoof sites run the gamut. Some are stunningly convincing, others amusingly bogus with spelling errors and typos. The DNS system is a critical part of the Internet's infrastructure, used to make sure computers know how to contact each other. People usually automatically use the DNS servers of their Internet providers, but the recent wave of attacks modifies the settings on victims' computers to send traffic to rogue DNS servers.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ifrgeDBfUGAvXtLH_vgVrKcm0s_wD8UPLR8O1

30. *February 14, Techworld* – (National) **'Critical' Linux kernel bugs discovered.**

Security researchers have uncovered "critical" security flaws in a version of the Linux kernel used by a large number of popular distributions. The three bugs allow unauthorized users to read or write to kernel memory locations or to access certain resources in certain servers, according to a SecurityFocus advisory. They could be exploited by malicious local users to cause denial of service attacks, disclose potentially sensitive information, or gain "root" privileges, according to security experts. The bug affects all versions of the Linux kernel up to version 2.6.24.1, which contains a patch. Distributions such as Ubuntu, Turbolinux, SuSE, Red Hat, Mandriva, Debian, and others are affected. The problems are within three functions in the system call fs/splice.c, according to an advisory from Secunia. "In the 2.6.23 kernel, the system call functionality has been further extended resulting in ... critical vulnerabilities," said iSEC

Security Research in an advisory. Secunia disagreed about the bugs' seriousness, giving them a less critical ranking. Exploit code for the vulnerabilities has been released publicly on the hacker site milw0rm.com, and Core Security Technologies has also developed a commercial exploit for the bugs, researchers said. Researchers advised system administrators to update their kernels immediately. Last month, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security bug-fixing scheme uncovered an average of one security glitch per 1,000 lines of code in 180 widely used open-source software projects. Secunia also previously discovered that the number of security bugs in open-source Red Hat Linux operating system and Firefox browsers far outstripped comparable products from Microsoft last year.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/02/14/Critical-Linux-kernel-bugs-discovered_1.html

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[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

31. *February 14, IDG News Service* – (National) **Most analog cellular to fade away on Monday.** You may think of sunsets as something nice to look at, but if you have an older cell phone or a home alarm system, there is one coming up on Monday that may not be so pretty. That day, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission will let mobile operators shut down their analog networks. It is called the “analog sunset” because those Advanced Mobile Phone System (AMPS) networks – which were first deployed in the 1980s and brought cellular service to millions of Americans – will finally disappear behind the digital networks that serve almost all mobile phones in use today. The biggest U.S. mobile operators, AT&T Wireless and Verizon Wireless, will close down their analog networks that day. At the same time, AT&T will turn off its first digital network, which uses Time-Division Multiple Access technology. (Sprint Nextel and T-Mobile USA do not have analog networks.) Calls to some small, rural mobile operators indicated that most of them plan to shut down AMPS, too. There are not many mobile phones out there that will go dark after the analog sunset, according to the big carriers, which have been warning subscribers about the change for months and offering them incentives to switch over. However, AMPS is not only used for cell phones. Many alarm companies use the system to alert police or fire departments to emergencies at homes or businesses. About three years ago, the Alarm Industry Communications Committee (AICC) industry group took a survey which revealed that just fewer than one million of the approximately 30 million monitored home and business alarm systems used an analog cellular network. About 850,000 of them used the system only as a backup in case the phone line was cut, he said. Alarm manufacturers are now replacing many of those analog systems with digital ones, said an AICC representative.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/02/14/Most-analog-cellular-to-fade-away-on-Monday_1.html

32. *February 14, Reuters* – (National) **Mobile industry sees new security risks.** Security systems can now block the first computer viruses attack on cell phones, but the mobile industry sees new risks stemming from upcoming open software platforms such as Google's Android. Since 2004, viruses have been able to disable phones or swell phone bills through pricey messages or unwanted calls, leading to a new security technology market. "If Android becomes a fully open platform ... and when such a platform becomes more common, risks are greater than with the current platform kings such as Symbian," said the head of research at security software firm F-Secure. Security specialists also pointed to potential risks arising from Apple's plans to open its software platform to third party developers this month. While the risk of a cell phone getting infected is still relatively small, thousands of phones have seen problems. One in seven global mobile users has already been exposed to mobile viruses, either directly or they know someone whose phone has been infected, according to a McAfee study. Since the first mobile virus appeared in 2004, the number of different viruses, worms, or other types of malware has reached 395, F-Secure said, adding that the number of malware has increased only slightly in the last 12 months.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=USL144082020080215>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *February 14, Associated Press* – (National) **FBI asks terror squads for threat data.** The FBI has put its domestic terror squads on alert for any threats against synagogues and other potential Jewish targets in the U.S. following the killing of a Hezbollah commander. U.S. law enforcement officials say there have been no specific threats so far against any Jewish centers. On Thursday, the FBI ordered terrorism task forces nationwide to reach out to community sources for any information about increased Hezbollah activity following the death Tuesday of the Hezbollah commander. A law enforcement official says this kind of high-priority order is not often issued to joint terrorism task forces. The task forces are located in about 100 cities around the country.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gR8F3GZPJLOguPMIUbolrXzQ9IJAD8UQB0AO0>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *February 15, Idaho Mountain Express* – (Idaho) **Forest Service approves uranium exploration near Stanley.** The Salmon River Mountains northeast of Stanley, Idaho, are a mineral-rich region and about to become home to a uranium exploration project. The Yankee Fork Ranger District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest has decided to allow Magnum Minerals USA Corp. to drill 21 exploratory cores ranging from 30 to

100 feet deep in an approximately two-acre area west of the confluence of the Salmon River and the Yankee Fork. It is a scaled-back version of the company's initial application. Following collection of public input, exploration was approved last month as a "categorical exclusion" under the National Environmental Policy Act, which means that no thorough environmental study will be required. "The Big Hank project meets the intent of the category because it will authorize approval of less than one full year of operations, it requires less than one mile of use and minor repair of existing roads and there are no extraordinary circumstances or other issues that would require the preparation of an EA (environmental assessment) or EIS (environmental impact statement)," wrote the Yankee Fork District Ranger in his January decision memo. Source: <http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2005119399>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

35. *February 15, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Erosion threatens Lake O floodgates.**

Water managers have found a 1,000-foot-long swath of erosion near a set of state-owned floodgates north of Lake Okeechobee, Florida. The South Florida Water Management District announced it will begin a \$1.6 million patch of the gouge's deepest portion next week. But water managers said it will take another breakneck engineering effort to remove the threat before the hurricane season begins June 1. The district found the erosion last month just south of the S-65E floodgates, about eight miles upstream of the lake. The district's director of operational engineering said the erosion might have been left from the torrents of runoff that followed the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes. If hurricanes dump tons more rain this summer, the combination of a record-low lake level and a storm-swollen Kissimmee River could create water velocities that worsen the erosion. That could be enough to collapse the floodgates. The district's director of operational engineering said it is unclear how such a collapse would affect nearby populated areas. But he said the uncontrolled flow could threaten to undermine floodgates, bridges, and other man-made structures upstream. In a similar warning last summer, the district told the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the lake's extremely low water level is drying formerly saturated parts of the Herbert Hoover Dike, which could lead to worsened erosion once the lake recovers.

Source:

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/storm/content/local_news/epaper/2008/02/15/s1b_water_0215.html

36. *February 15, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Corps releases levee height needs.** Levees along the eastern border of St. Bernard Parish and southern edge of eastern New Orleans will be raised as much as 11 feet – up to a height of 29 feet in some spots – to protect from storm surge flooding created by a 100-year hurricane, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials said Thursday. Some levee sections in western New Orleans and East Jefferson, however, already are tall enough to defend against surges from hurricanes with a one in 100 chance of hitting the New Orleans area, according to tentative elevation estimates just released by the Corps. Still unclear, Corps officials said, is which sections of the new levee system will require armoring – protecting the back side

of levees from erosion caused by surge and wave overtopping during a hurricane. Areas where earthen levees join with floodwalls or other structures already are planned for such armoring, but the Corps is still debating what other levee sections should require rock, concrete, or geotextile fabric to be added to traditional grass covers.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/frontpage/index.ssf?/base/news-10/1203056512275780.xml&coll=1>

37. *February 15, Telegraph* – (New Hampshire) **Plans set for Merrimack Village Dam’s removal this year.** Pennichuck Corp., the owner of the Merrimack Village Dam in New Hampshire, wants to remove the defunct structure because it would be costly to repair and a liability to maintain. Several years ago, the company hired a consulting firm to complete an array of studies on the impact of removing the dam and their latest, and last, study has just been completed. The next step is to apply for permits from the state and federal government. If those go through, the removal process could begin in July and wrap up in November, depending on water levels.

Source:

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080215/NEWS01/22473736/-1/opinion02>

38. *February 14, News-Dispatch* – (Indiana) **Group: No cash for repairs if levees break.** Due to recent flooding and at least four levee breaks in Northwest Indiana, the Kankakee River Basin Commission has run out of money to repair any future breaks in the system. The Commission’s director said as the river rises, she expects there will be a levee or two to break. She said the total to fix four previous breaks, along with removing two log jams, is more than \$95,000. That leaves the KRBC with an emergency fund of \$35,000, she said. “The KRBC has no money left to close broken levees. We are now at the mercy of the individual counties along the river to cover any oncoming emergencies.” She said if any of the counties are not able to handle that emergency, it would be forwarded to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, which would contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Guard, or other agencies for help.

Source:

<http://thenewsdspatch.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=9851&TM=38711.05>

39. *February 14, Taunton Call* – (Massachusetts) **Group Councilors fear dam disaster looming.** The temporary cofferdam at Morey’s Bridge in Bristol County, Massachusetts, needs to come down as soon as possible to avert a potential disaster, several city councilors said. The cofferdam was built by members of the citizens group Save the Lake last summer as a stopgap measure until the owners fix or replace the permanent dam, which is in disrepair. Members of Save the Lake said last year the water level in Sabbatia Lake had dwindled to a virtual puddle thanks to the dilapidated old dam letting too much water out. However, according to a city councilor, the new dam is too high and is impounding too much water. He said the water level in the lake is several feet higher than normal, and on the other side of the dam, residents are complaining their water supply is drying up because not enough is getting over the too-high dam. His

concern is that, first, there will be flooding along the shores of the lake if much more water builds up; and second, if the dam is not structurally sound, and it breaches, the result could be a full-blown disaster, with flooding in downtown Taunton, he said. The City Council president has scheduled a meeting for February 26 to hash out a plan to address the situation. He invited representatives from Save the Lake and Jefferson Development, the owner of the dam, the Taunton Conservation Commission, neighbors from Sabbatia and the Mill River, and the head of the Taunton Emergency Management Agency.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/taunton/news/x1514484792>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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