



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 2 April 2008

Current Nationwide



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- The Salt Lake Tribune reports the Mine Safety and Health Administration has issued a “flagrant violation” to operators of the West Ridge mine in Carbon County, Utah, the second time in two weeks MSHA has aggressively gone after violations at mines owned by Murray Energy Corp. Violations stem from the accumulation of potentially explosive material. (See item [2](#))
- According to USA Today, law enforcement agencies across the country, facing tighter budgets, are increasingly turning to civilians to respond to some calls for which sworn officers and deputies are usually responsible. Sending civilians into the field for even routine calls that have little chance of becoming dangerous has been a contentious issue. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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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. *April 1, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Drilling rules forged anew.** The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission unveiled Monday proposed rules designed to protect the environment, public health, and wildlife. Among the new rules: a 90-day drilling ban could be implemented in wildlife breeding areas; limits on drilling near public water supplies; odor controls on well equipment located within a half-mile of occupied

buildings in the San Juan and Piceance basins; and reporting requirements for chemicals used at each well site. The oil and gas industry has opposed the new rules, contending they would jeopardize energy development, which has been booming with a record 6,368 drilling permits approved in 2007. Public hearings will be held on the rules in June. The commission is expected to vote on them in mid-July for implementation November 1.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/politics/ci_8763743

2. *April 1, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **The ‘flagrant violation’ in Carbon County is for a buildup of potentially explosive material.** The Mine Safety and Health Administration announced Monday that it has issued a “flagrant violation” to operators of the West Ridge mine in Carbon County, Utah, the second time in two weeks MSHA has aggressively gone after violations at mines owned by Murray Energy Corp. On March 20, MSHA announced it was assessing \$420,300 in fines for flagrant violations at the Tower mine, which is operated by a subsidiary of Murray Energy. Both the violation at West Ridge announced Monday and the Tower violations stem from the accumulation of potentially explosive material. In the case of the West Ridge mine, coal dust had accumulated in the crusher building and the company was ordered on three occasions – in December 2006, January 2007, and in January 2008 – to clean it up. MSHA assessed a \$4,800 fine for each of the previous two West Ridge violations. Both are delinquent. The agency has not assessed a fine in the latest violation, but it could impose a fine of up to \$220,000. MSHA found that the Tower mine contained unacceptably high levels of coal dust and liquid hydrocarbons. Last week, UtahAmerican Energy Inc., which operated the Tower mine, said it was closing the mine because of unexpected structural issues. Tower was the deepest operating mine in the U.S.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_8765449

3. *March 31, Electric Light & Power/Utility Automation & Engineering T&D* – (California) **FPL Energy plans to build solar power facility in California.** FPL Energy, through a wholly-owned subsidiary, has filed an application for certification with the California Energy Commission to construct, own, and operate a 250-megawatt solar plant in the Mojave Desert to be called the Beacon Solar Energy Project. The Beacon Solar Energy Project will be located on an approximately 2,000 acre site in eastern Kern County, California. More than 500,000 parabolic mirrors will be assembled in rows to receive and concentrate the solar energy to produce steam for powering a steam turbine generator. The generator will produce electric power for delivery to the nearby electric grid. FPL Energy expects to begin construction on the project late in 2009 and take approximately two years to complete.

Source: http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display_article/324502/22/ARTCL/none/none/1/FPL-Energy-plans-to-build-solar-power-facility-in-California/

4. *March 31, Electric Light & Power/Utility Automation & Engineering T&D* – (Texas) **NRG Energy begins construction on Texas wind farm.** NRG Energy Inc., through its wholly owned subsidiary Padoma Wind Power LLC, began construction on the Elbow Creek Wind Project, a 122 megawatt (MW) wind farm in Howard County near Big Spring, Texas. Construction of the Elbow Creek Wind Project is expected to take nine

months with commercial operation achieved by year end. The project will use 53 Siemens 2.3 MW wind turbine generators. The Elbow Creek Wind Project will be built on an approximately 6,700-acre tract of land. The ground elevation where wind turbines will be installed is approximately 2,800 feet above sea level.

Source: http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display_article/324503/22/ARTCL/none/none/1/NRG-Energy-begins-construction-on-Texas-wind-farm/

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *April 1, WNBC 4 New York* – (New York) **Closed Mt. Vernon chemical plant catches fire again.** A small fire has broken out at the Mount Vernon, New York, chemical plant that caught fire Friday night, causing the evacuation of several hundred families. Mount Vernon police and firefighters were called at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday to the fire that has been confined to the roof of the KEM Chemical Co.'s building. The cause of last week's four-alarm fire has not yet been determined. Police do not know how much longer the cleanup and investigation will take. Health officials have declared the air safe to breathe around the chemical warehouse.

Source: <http://www.wnbc.com/news/15761533/detail.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *April 1, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **VY power cut to fix condenser.** A leak in one of the thousands of condenser tubes that serves as a radiator for Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon caused a 55 percent reduction in power output Monday. Plant operators need to cut back power output to allow maintenance technicians to install a plug in the leaking tube, work that should take several days. The repair is considered minor maintenance, said a spokesperson for Yankee, which is owned and operated by Entergy Nuclear Operations. As part of its license renewal process, Entergy has indicated it would replace the condenser assemblies at Vermont Yankee, said a spokesperson for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "We plan to replace it in the next few years, but that will be a multi-year process," said the spokesperson for Yankee.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/ci_8766788?source=most_viewed

7. *April 1, Reuters* – (South Carolina) **Duke S.C. Oconee 2 reactor shut.** Duke Energy Corp's 846-megawatt Unit 2 at the Oconee nuclear power station in South Carolina automatically shut from full power on Monday, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. The company said the reactor tripped after the turbine tripped due to low condenser vacuum during maintenance activities. Operators said the exact cause was still under investigation but was believed to be related a maintenance procedure on the condenser vacuum instrumentation.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN0144849320080401?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

8. *April 1, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **State takes over some nuclear duties.** Pennsylvania has assumed responsibility from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for licensing, inspection, and enforcement of almost 700 sites in the state using radioactive materials. State regulation of the sites – mostly medical, pharmaceutical, industrial, and university facilities using smaller amounts of radioactive material – will improve emergency response capabilities through the quick and accurate release of information about the materials involved, said the Pennsylvania governor. “State officials are usually the first to respond to incidents involving radioactive materials,” he said. “Now, these officials will have more knowledge from the first minute they arrive on the scene.” Pennsylvania is the 35th state to assume jurisdiction over a portion of its licensing program for some nuclear materials. The NRC will retain jurisdiction over nine commercial power plants, one research reactor, and other facilities and federal agencies using certain nuclear materials. In addition, the commission will retain authority for the review, evaluation, and approval of nuclear materials in sealed devices manufactured in the state and distributed throughout the country.
Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08092/869487-85.stm>
9. *April 1, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Man indicted for making car bomb threat at nuclear plant.** Federal authorities say a Houston County man is under federal indictment for threatening to drive a car bomb into Farley Nuclear Plant. The man allegedly made the threat and another by telephone on February 18 after security guards would not allow him to visit his ex-wife, who is employed at the facility. The indictment charges the man with false information and hoaxes. He also faces a state charge of making terrorist threats.
Source: <http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20080401/APN/804010652>
10. *March 31, Monitor* – (Texas) **Radioactive material goes missing.** A box containing radioactive material stolen from a truck more than a week ago is still missing, an official from a Houston-based company said Monday. A lead box containing a radioactive chemical was stored inside an F-250 truck stolen from the parking lot of the La Quinta Inn in Pharr, Texas, on March 20. The truck was recovered in Falfurrias on Sunday, Pharr police said. But the box containing the radioactive material was not recovered. A spokesperson for Baker Hughes, a Houston-based oil and natural gas company that owned the chemical, said he did not know the exact quantity or type of chemical stolen. He characterized it as “low-level radioactive source.” He said the material is in a locked, lead box and is not dangerous unless the box is tampered with. A total of \$2 million worth of tools was stolen with the truck, he added. “If someone finds it, we’d ask them not to tamper with it,” he said, explaining the box is clearly marked with a label indicating the contents as radioactive. Pharr police said nobody has been arrested in connection with the theft.
Source:
http://www.themonitor.com/articles/radioactive_10449_article.html/containing_material.html
11. *March 31, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **Nuclear plant safety criticized.**

The operating performance of the Kewaunee nuclear power plant declined in 2007, in part because of a safety finding that resulted in stepped-up scrutiny of the one-reactor plant, which was tagged with a yellow finding, or the second-worst rating. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) found “substantial safety significance” from an incident in June 2006, in which owner and operator of the plant Dominion Resources Inc. failed to evaluate and repair an oil leak in an emergency diesel generator. The commission said workers failed to evaluate the leak, and when the emergency generator leaked again two months later during routine testing, the generator was inoperable. The NRC said the company has made strides to address concerns regulators have raised. However, regulators will continue to monitor the plant during regular inspections this year to ensure that Dominion pays close attention in areas such as how well plant workers identify and address problems. At a Monday night meeting in Mishicot, regulators will discuss the plant’s performance, and Dominion representatives will detail how they have responded to concerns raised by the NRC.

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=733979>

12. *March 31, Platts* – (National) **Groups criticize DOE’s GNEP program as too costly and too risky.** The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) is a poorly-supported program that could pose significant risks to public health and safety, a group of organizations said in a report Monday. The partnership, which began in 2002, involves 21 countries whose goal is to spur the construction of civilian nuclear power plants while ensuring that spent fuel would not fall into the hands of terrorists. Partnership countries would send their spent fuel to be reprocessed in the U.S. The report – sponsored by Friends of the Earth USA, the Government Accountability Project, the Institute for Policy Studies, and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy – said the project is too risky and too costly and should be cancelled. The groups plan to urge Congress to eliminate funding for GNEP. A senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies said the groups want spent nuclear fuel to stay where it is, buried at reactor sites. They also want the government to abandon the idea of Yucca Mountain as the nation’s nuclear waste repository and start a process for selecting a new site. The report said that none of the GNEP technologies and processes is commercially viable at the moment.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6847559.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to Report

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *April 1, WMBB 13 Panama City* – (Florida) **Washington Co. scam alert.** The Washington County, Florida, Sheriff’s Office has issued a fraud alert concerning a scam

that can result in identity theft and other exploitation especially for senior citizens. According to the report, some organizations are offering large sums of money or scooter-type or other motorized wheelchairs in exchange for detailed personal information. Revelation of this information could allow these companies to take out life insurance in the person's name, or use the person's identity for other purposes without their knowledge. "Representatives of certain organizations reportedly are offering \$1,000 checks and durable items in exchange for seniors filling out 'longevity surveys' that ask for highly personal, confidential information, including Social Security numbers, Medicare numbers, and extensive health and financial information," the sheriff's notice says. It continues: "Some seniors have been promised the \$1,000 upon completion of the survey and \$250 per year for the rest of their lives for their continued participation in the program." According to the sheriff's office, reports have come about these surveys being conducted over the phone, with the senior citizen then asked to expect certain documents in the mail, sign them when they arrive, and return them in order to get the money. The state's Office on Aging has not endorsed any of these organizations' efforts and takes no official position regarding their legitimacy, but it has warned that they might be misleading, according to the sheriff's office. Anyone with questions or concerns is urged to call their local law enforcement.

Source: <http://www.wmbb.com/gulfcoastwest/mbb/news.apx.-content-articles-MBB-2008-04-01-0001.html>

14. *March 31, Reuters* – (National) **Advance Auto says data on 56,000 customers exposed.** Advance Auto Parts Inc said on Monday a "network intrusion" had exposed credit card, debit card and checking account information for up to 56,000 customers and was the subject of a criminal investigation. The auto parts retailer said 14 of its stores, including locations in Georgia, Ohio, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Indiana, Virginia and New York, had been affected. The company said it was conducting its own investigation and cooperating in a criminal probe of the matter by state and federal agencies. Advance Auto Parts did not specify in a statement how customer financial information had been exposed or how access had been gained to its network.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080331/us_nm/autos_advanceauto_dc;_ylt=Aj3e0xt.lzf8JtjX9rtJpbCWIr0F

15. *March 31, Web Host Industry Review* – (National) **Symantec releases phishing report.** A majority of the phishing attacks targeting government websites in February were trying to steal money through fraudulent tax refunds, says a recent report released by security software firm Symantec. In the February 2008 issue of "The State of Phishing," the anti-fraud team at Symantec Security Response found that 84 percent of fraud activity was targeting the financial sector, specifically e-commerce and banking sites, with the information services sector being the next most targeted at 13 percent. Symantec says that the one big difference here was that most of the information gathered in the phishing attacks on the information services sector were probably used to carry out spam activity rather than steal money.

Source:

http://www.thewhir.com/marketwatch/033108_Symantec_Releases_Phishing_Report.cf

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16. *March 31, Reuters* – (National) **CFTC worries merger with SEC may harm futures mkts.** A proposed merger of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and the Securities and Exchange Commission could bring some efficiencies, but it should be weighed against harming the competitive advantage of U.S. futures markets, the head of the CFTC said on Monday. “Although the creation of a new unified regulator for securities and futures could bring efficiencies, the trade-offs of such a significant undertaking should be weighed carefully given these turbulent economic times and the competitive global advantage currently enjoyed by the U.S. futures industry,” CFTC’s acting chairman said in a statement in response to a government proposal to overhaul regulation of U.S. financial markets.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSWAT00922120080331>

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Transportation Sector

17. *April 1, Baltimore Sun* – (National) **U.S. proposes tougher rules for rail cars.** The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has proposed what it calls “sweeping” and “revolutionary” changes in standards for the construction of the railroad tank cars that carry the most dangerous chemicals through American communities. The new rules would strengthen the tankers to prevent penetration and ruptures at speeds up to 30 mph and slow some freights hauling dangerous cargo until the older tankers are replaced. Railroads and chemical companies would have to replace half the 15,300 tank cars used to transport chlorine and anhydrous ammonia with stronger models within five years of the rules’ enactment. The entire fleet would be replaced within eight years. The railroad industry, in a statement from the Association of American Railroads, said it would need more time to study the 186-page FRA proposal. A Federal Railroad Administrator has said he wants to have the new rules in place before the Bush administration leaves office in January 2009. There will be 60 days of public comment on the proposal, said a FRA spokesman. After that, the agency will incorporate any suggested changes they feel are warranted and then conduct a final administrative review before issuing the new rules. A spokesman for the Association of American Railroads said the industry transports about 100,000 carloads of PIH chemicals annually in the United States. The new performance standards seek to increase by 500 percent the amount of energy the tankers are designed to absorb without penetration or rupture. All told, the FRA estimated the net costs of the conversions to the railroads, when weighed against the potential savings through the prevention of deaths, injuries, property damage and litigation, at \$665 million over 30 years. If improvements already launched or planned by the industry are subtracted, the new federal rules would cost the industry \$350 million over 30 years, the FRA estimated.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-te.md.tankers01apr01,0,4823364.story>

18. *April 1, Associated Press* – (South Carolina, Maine) **S.C. gets extension on new ID law.** The Department of Homeland Security granted South Carolina an extension

yesterday to comply with a new federal identification law, and Maine has been given more time to sort out its differences with the government. The Homeland Security secretary pushed back yesterday's deadline to 5 p.m. Tuesday to allow Maine more time to meet guidelines for the federal Real ID law. Beginning May 11, residents of states that do not meet the Real ID requirements may be barred from entering federal buildings and boarding airplanes using their current driver's licenses.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/31/AR2008033102806.html>

19. *March 31, CNN* – (National) **United Airlines finds faulty wiring in 3 planes.** United Airlines has found faulty wiring in the landing gear of three of its Airbus A320 planes, the company said Monday. United Airlines and government officials believe the faulty wiring caused a pair of nonfatal runway accidents. In a statement released Monday, United Airlines said: "We informed our mechanics, pilots and flight attendants of the incidents and the corrective steps we are taking. We further conducted a stringent review process with our maintenance partners to ensure they had the same information." One of the planes skidded off a runway while landing at Jackson Hole Airport in Wyoming in February, said a United Airlines spokeswoman. The other plane briefly veered off a runway at Chicago O'Hare International Airport in October 2007, she said. Two people had minor injuries as a result. The third plane has not involved in an accident.

Source:

http://money.cnn.com/2008/03/31/news/companies/United_wiring/index.htm?postversion=2008033112?cnn=yes

20. *March 31, Associated Press* – (National) **NASA's air-safety project criticized.** NASA shut down a massive air-safety survey project without ever properly evaluating, explaining or publicizing its purpose and results, and thus lost a chance for valuable insight into safety issues, the space agency's inspector general said Monday. The watchdog office said NASA should interpret and analyze the results of its interviews with some 30,000 pilots, but NASA in a written response continued to reject that idea. NASA will evaluate the methodology that its staff used in the \$11.3 million project, but going further to actually report on the findings is not worthwhile because the interviews, which were stopped at the end of 2004, are less relevant with the passage of time, wrote the agency's associate administrator. The intent of the National Aviation Operations Monitoring Service was to help prevent aviation accidents by viewing air safety through the eyes of pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, and air traffic controllers. Their insights would add to the picture provided by other aviation monitoring programs, the audit said. The Federal Aviation Administration had objected to the survey's results that showed a greater rate of safety incidents than were found in other government monitoring systems, and it questioned the methodology, the audit said. FAA and other government groups joined working sessions with NASA but did not try to interpret or validate the results.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23889157/>

21. *March 31, Reuters* – (National) **US Airways shot raises fears about guns on planes.** The recent accidental discharge of a pilot's gun highlights tensions over whether the number of authorized guns aboard U.S. commercial aircraft translates into safer skies. A

long list of travelers are permitted by law to carry guns on planes, including federal air marshals, certain pilots and law-enforcement agents traveling for business. Supporters of the practice insist that the presence of armed pilots and law enforcement agents – on and off duty – cuts the chances of hijacking. But others argue that the sheer number of guns on planes greatly increases the likelihood of an accident such as the one on a US Airways flight on March 22, when a gun carried by a pilot went off during flight in the cockpit. No one was injured. The armed pilot program was enacted after the September 11, 2001, hijack attacks in New York and Washington. Pilots are trained to use weapons to defend the aircraft in the event that a hijacker manages to get through the reinforced cockpit door. In the six-year history of the armed pilot program, the US Airways incident was the first time a weapon had been fired in the cockpit, the TSA said.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080331/us_nm/airlines_usa_guns_dc;_ylt=Av4SvjYNO9_yKPNHvfusehQWIr0F

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to Report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *March 31, News Inferno* – (National) **Salmonella outbreak in Minnesota prompts USDA warning on frozen chicken entrees.** Two cases of Salmonella poisoning in Minnesota have been linked to Milford Valley Farms Chicken Cordon Bleu raw frozen chicken entrees. While no recall was issued, consumers are being warned to cook the raw, frozen chicken dinners thoroughly, and to avoid preparing them in microwave ovens. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Salmonella bacteria sicken 40,000 people every year. Although the true number could be much higher, because it is estimated that for every case of Salmonella poisoning reported, two others are unreported. In Minnesota, the entrees are known to have made two people sick. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), products linked to the illnesses were produced by Serenade Foods, a Milford, Indiana, establishment. Products include “Chicken Breast with Rib Meat Chicken Cordon Bleu” and “Chicken Breast with Rib Meat Buffalo Style” sold under the brand names “Milford Valley Farms,” “Dutch Farms” and “Kirkwood.” The individually wrapped, 6-ounce products were produced on January 21, 2008 (date code C8021 is printed on the side of the package). The USDA said each of these packages bears the establishment number “Est. P-2375” inside the USDA mark of inspection. These specific products were distributed to retail establishments in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, North Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Source: <http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/2820>

23. *March 31, Reuters* – (National) **Soy sowings up near record; corn crop squeezed.** U.S. farmers will sow a near-record 74.8 million acres of soybeans this spring, the

government said on Monday, preventing a soy shortage but curtailing the corn crop when ethanol production is booming. Corn plantings were forecast at 86 million acres, down eight percent from 2007. Analysts said corn demand was so strong, there would be a raid on the U.S. stockpile next year. An analyst with the Price Futures Group in Chicago said the Agriculture Department data pointed to “a big problem in the coming year” in corn. This year’s corn crop could total 12.2 billion bushels, the second largest on record, although smaller than 2007’s record, and soybeans could yield 3.1 billion bushels, according to Reuters’ calculations. USDA will make its first harvest projections in May.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080331/us_nm/usa_crops_dc;_ylt=ApD_R1A3lNvkFneTO7y.AKsWIr0F

24. *March 31, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **WTO rejects EU beef hormone ban but also raps U.S., Canada.** The World Trade Organization (WTO) on Monday ruled that the European Union, United States, and Canada all failed to respect global trade rules in a long-running row over beef treated with growth hormones. The EU was at fault because its present justifications for an import ban – which were revised after a previous WTO ruling – were not backed up by scientific evidence, the WTO said. The U.S. and Canada meanwhile did not follow WTO procedures by maintaining retaliatory measures against Brussels, the global trade body found in a report. The case goes back nearly 10 years to 1998 when the WTO ruled Washington and Ottawa could slap higher tariffs on a list of EU products after it condemned Brussels for banning beef producing with certain growth-promoting hormones – used by the U.S. and Canada – without a scientific assessment of the risk. The EU had contested these sanctions, saying that they were no longer justified because it had found a new scientific basis for banning hormone-treated beef and had updated its law in 2003. Brussels then filed two fresh complaints against the United States and Canada for maintaining their retaliatory measures. However, in its report on Monday, the WTO’s Dispute Settlement Body said that “the scientific evidence evaluated did not support the conclusions in the EU risk assessment.”

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080331/bs_afp/wtoeuustradefarmbeef_080331163636;_ylt=AoIcvi1C3wG9sueW3lf52TLYa7gF

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Water Sector

25. *April 1, Los Angeles Times* – (Colorado) **Old-fashioned water fight brews in Colorado.** Now a new dam and reservoir project could pull even more water out of the Cache la Poudre River before it reaches Fort Collins, Colorado. A key juncture in the process comes this month, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases an environmental impact statement that will determine if and how the \$400-million project can proceed. Both sides expect the Corps to sign off on the proposal and are bracing for an old-fashioned showdown over that most precious of resources – water. The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, which is spearheading the project in partnership

with 15 cities and communities that want the water, says the reservoir and dam are the most environmentally and economically sensitive ways to deal with water needs in the booming area. Opponents, mainly environmentalists who argue that Fort Collins deserves as much river water as possible since it is closest to the source, contend the project is a boondoggle that could deal a death blow to the Poudre. Colorado, like most Western states, parcels out rights to water based on seniority of the claimant, not necessarily proximity to rivers or lakes. Between the mouth of Cache la Poudre Canyon and its junction with the South Platte River, 60 miles east, lie 24 diversion structures, typically dam and canal combinations. This network sends the river water to its historical owners, mainly farmers on Colorado's eastern plains. The new project would be supplying water to the river's other users – a ring of fast-growing communities that hug the northern edge of Denver's sprawl.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-poudre1apr01,1,2773535.story>

26. *March 31, Associated Press* – (National) **JPMorgan: Water supply a key issue.** Wall Street has given scant attention to companies that rely directly on water for their survival, even as the world's supply of the liquid is threatened by mismanagement and pollution, a JPMorgan report said Monday. "In many regions demand for water now outstrips renewable supplies. It is likely this gap will widen," an analyst said in a note to clients. "Water pollution is getting worse in many developing economies, which exacerbates the challenge of delivering sufficient water of the required quality." Yet many companies provide only "general" information on water that neither qualifies nor quantifies the potential financial risks from a sudden supply disruption, the analyst said in the report, which was cowritten by six analysts. The problem is especially potent in the gambling, semiconductor, and beverage industries, which heavily rely on the liquid for their operations.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8VOJE380.htm>

27. *March 31, Las Vegas Review-Journal* – (Nevada) **Varied options: Big ideas, slim hope for water.** A new report examines 12 ideas for augmenting the Colorado River's flow, and not even the most audacious of the plans – importing icebergs, for example – has been rejected out of hand. The report, paid for by the Southern Nevada Water Authority and compiled by an outside panel of experts, was delivered to the secretary of Interior last week. Water managers in the seven Western states that share the Colorado will use the findings to help them decide which of the 12 options to pursue first and when. The director of surface water resources for the Southern Nevada Water Authority said he expects those talks to begin before the end of the year. The report cost about \$750,000 and took more than a year to complete. It evaluates options in terms of water quality, reliability, relative cost, projected water yield, technical difficulty, environmental concerns, and permitting issues. Unlike Arizona and California, Nevada has no large agricultural base with river water rights that could be converted to urban use. "And we obviously don't have an oceanfront," the director said, so in-state desalination is not an option. As a result, Nevada is most at risk of outgrowing its comparatively meager river allocation or having its municipal supplies jeopardized by continued drought and shortage. Las Vegas was little more than a dusty railroad stop when the Colorado was

parceled out in the 1920s and Nevada wound up with a two percent share. Today, the Las Vegas Valley is home to two million people and 90 percent of its water supply comes from the Colorado River.

Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/17150881.html>

28. *March 31, Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Cleaning up river site may cost 3M \$18 million.** Cleaning up dangerous chemicals in the Mississippi River and at the 3M Co. plant in Cottage Grove, Minnesota, will include dredging of the river to remove highly contaminated sediment in a cove and sandbar, 3M officials said, and will cost \$12.5 to \$18 million. The cleanup also includes excavating soil at the chemical plant where wastes were buried years ago, and pumping out millions of gallons of polluted groundwater that flows into the Mississippi. Cottage Grove's mayor said that the contamination does not threaten private or city wells. She also said she expects 3M to do everything possible to remove the contamination. The latest plan, called a feasibility study, was done by a 3M consultant and is the first time that costs have been estimated for the cleanup. The report indicates that the combination of groundwater pumpout wells and soil and sediment excavation will protect the environment. The main concerns are two perfluorochemicals, which the company manufactured for more than half a century and were widely sold and used in Scotchgard, Teflon, firefighting foam, and other coatings. The chemicals do not break down or degrade in the environment. At high levels, they have been found to cause liver, developmental, and other health problems in laboratory animals. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Superfund project director said that the agency will spend the next month evaluating the Cottage Grove plan, and could approve it, request modifications or more information, or reject it.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/17173956.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *April 1, Thanh Nien News* – (International) **Bird flu ravages central Vietnam province.** An outbreak of bird flu is sweeping through the central province of Quang Nam, Vietnam, forcing authorities to cull a further 26,660 birds. They destroyed 7,000 eggs and 1,250 ducks Monday after finding signs of the H5N1 virus that causes the disease. Seven communes in four districts – Nui Thanh, Thang Binh, Dai Loc, and Tien Phuoc – have been affected. The vice chairman of the Quang Nam People's Committee has instructed local authorities to focus on disinfecting affected areas and containing the spread of the disease. Until mid-March only Nui Thanh had reported outbreaks.

Source: <http://www.thanhniennews.com/healthy/?catid=8&newsid=37260>

30. *March 31, Clarion Ledger* – (Mississippi) **First West Nile virus case of year confirmed.** Mississippi's Department of Health (MSDH) confirmed today the state's first human case of West Nile virus for the year in Lincoln County. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is the second reported human case in the United States for 2008. Mississippi's total number of human cases for 2007 was 136 with four resulting in death. Although these numbers are lower than the previous year, it is no indicator for the coming year. The MSDH reports both confirmed and probable

cases to the public. “Although West Nile is most prevalent in mid- to late summer it can occur throughout the year because mosquitoes may be active any time of the year in Mississippi,” said the state epidemiologist.

Source:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080331/NEWS/80331024>

31. *March 31, United Press International* – (International) **Vaccine for Ebola virus being tested.** U.S. and Canadian researchers are finding success in primates with vaccines to prevent the Ebola virus. An official with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta said one of the candidate vaccines is about to be tested on people for the first time. “The biothreat posed by Ebola virus cannot be overlooked. We are seeing more and more naturally occurring human outbreaks of this deadly disease. With worldwide air travel and tourism, the virus can now be transported to and from remote regions of the world. And it has huge potential as a possible weapon of bioterrorism,” he said in a statement. Ebola hemorrhagic fever has a 90 percent mortality rate and there have been more than 1,500 cases in humans, the official said. The Ebola virus is so dangerous only a very limited number of high containment facilities and staff are authorized to conduct Ebola virus research.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Health/2008/03/31/vaccine_for_ebola_virus_being_tested/2715/

Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *March 31, USA Today* – (National) **Civilians handle minor duties for strapped police.** Facing tighter budgets, law enforcement agencies across the country are increasingly turning to civilians to respond to some calls that sworn officers and deputies are usually responsible for. That means people calling 911 to report a traffic accident, a burglarized home, or a stolen car may be greeted by a civilian in a polo shirt instead of an officer. The idea of using civilians, who require less training and are less expensive than sworn officers, to respond to minor police calls has been around since the late 1980s. As the economy slows again and state and local governments face major cuts, many – including communities in Florida, Indiana, and Nevada – have turned back to the old practice. Civilians have long been used to handle tasks such as dispatching and other administrative duties in the office – but sending them into the field for even routine calls that have little chance of becoming dangerous has been a contentious issue.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20080331/a_civiliancops31.art.htm

33. *March 31, U.S. Coast Guard* – (Alaska) **Simulated terrorist strike in Juneau.** A

simulated terrorist strike somewhere on the Juneau waterfront will be the centerpiece of a two-day multi-agency Maritime Security exercise planned for April 2 and April 3, 2008. Primary players will include the Alaska State Troopers, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the City and Borough of Juneau, the Cruise Line Agency of Alaska, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Numerous other federal, state, and local agencies who are also members of the Southeast Area Maritime Security Committee will participate as well. The purpose of the drill is to test the Southeast Alaska Maritime Security Plan by putting its provisions for cooperative response into action. Agency leaders will meet face-to-face to test their ability to coordinate their people, vehicles, vessels, communications equipment, and other assets. Though the focus of the drill is on responding to a security-related event, the benefits of the exercise extend to government preparedness for any kind of disaster in southeast Alaska.

Source: <http://www.military.com/news/article/coast-guard-news/simulated-terrorist-strike-in-juneau.html?col=1186032366581>

34. *March 31, KRDO 13 Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **Full-scale “mass shooting” exercise at UCCS.** Area police officers, firefighters, and emergency management crews teamed up with University of Colorado at Colorado Springs campus police Friday, on a full-scale exercise to test their abilities to handle a gunman on campus. A city spokesman said: “You’ve got the potential for lots of different hostages. That’s always a challenge. You want to try and get the bad guy without hurting the good guys.” The day-long exercise lasted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. While the scenarios were fictional, authorities treated them as real events. The training event is meant to prepare crews in case they are ever faced with this kind of frightening experience.

Source: http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=8083673&nav=menu552_1

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Information Technology

35. *April 1, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **NZealand teen convicted over global cyber-crime ring.** A New Zealand teenager was convicted Tuesday for his central role in a global cyber-crime ring which infected at least 1.3 million computers worldwide and caused millions of dollars in losses. The teen allegedly led a group of international hackers who used his programs to access personal data, send viruses around the world, and commit other crimes, causing losses of 20 million U.S. dollars, police say. Prosecutors said the exact number of computers in which his malicious or bot code was installed may never be known.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080401/tc_afp/nzealandcrimeinternetcomputer;_ylt=AvM.FDDaHiUCjRqLxxuk5AeDzdAF

36. *April 1, Associated Press* – (International) **Cybercrime law enforcement debated.** Two groups working separately to boost Europe’s defenses against online crime will present proposals this week, almost a year after most of the nation of Estonia’s links to the Internet were disrupted for days or weeks. At a two-day conference starting Tuesday in Strasbourg, France, the Council of Europe will to review implementation of the

international Convention on Cybercrime and discuss ways to improve international cooperation. Cyber defense also will be on the agenda when heads of state from NATO's 26 member nations gather in Bucharest Wednesday for three days. The leaders are expected to debate new guidelines for coordinating cyber defense. The Convention on Cybercrime, a binding treaty ratified by most members of the 47-nation Council of Europe, provides guidelines to protect computer users against hackers and Internet fraud. The controversial agreement also covers electronic evidence used in prosecution of such offenses as child sexual exploitation, organized crime, and terrorism. At this week's conference, the council will discuss guidelines to bolster the convention to improve cooperation between investigators and Internet providers, according to the council's Web site. NATO's three-day summit, which is to focus on enlarging the treaty organization and on its operations in Kosovo and Afghanistan, will include a special briefing on cyber defense, according to the treaty organization's Web site.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080401/eu_cybercrime.html?.v=1

37. *March 31, Computerworld* – (International) **No foolin', say researchers – Storm attack under way.** A new campaign by the Storm Trojan horse began on Monday, as spam posing as April Fools' Day messages flooded in-boxes, several security companies said. According to analysts at F-Secure Corp., the SANS Institute's Internet Storm Center (ISC), Symantec Corp., and others, spam bearing a wide range of April Fools' Day subjects started showing up Monday. Among the subject headings, said an ISC researcher in a post to the group's blog, were "All Fools' Day," "Doh! April Fool," and "Surprise! The joke's on you." The messages carried no text; only a link to an April Fools'-themed URL that in turn tried to download or convince users to download an executable with filenames such as "foolsday.exe" and "kickme.exe." These executables were, in fact, the Storm Trojan horse, which is identified by some security vendors as Dorf, Nuwar, or Peacomm. Storm's creators have a history of using holidays to spread their malware, which is designed to add infected Windows PCs to a botnet that can be used for additional spam blasts or for launching denial-of-service attacks. The last major Storm run was in the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day, for example. Several security firms posted the image that appears when a user clicks on the link within the Storm spam mail, including McAfee Inc. The image is accompanied by text that reads "Your download will start in 5 seconds. If your download does not start, click here and then press 'Run.'" Storm has been linked by some researchers to the notorious Russian Business Network (RBN) malware-hosting organization.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=spam_malware_and_vulnerabilities&articleId=9073778&taxonomyId=85

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

38. *March 31, Info World* – (National) **Mobile broadband subscribers increase by 850 percent.** The worldwide number of mobile broadband subscribers using HSPA has increased by 850 percent over the past year, according to the GSM Association. But carriers are also running the risk of becoming a victim of their own success. HSPA (High Speed Packet Access) is a member of the GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) family, and currently offers speeds ranging from 1.8Mbps to 7.2Mbps. There are now more than 32 million connections worldwide, compared to 3 million a year ago. But, for operators a big concern is capacity, both in mobile networks and backhaul – the links that attach base stations to the rest of the world, according to the chief research officer at Informa Telecoms and Media. As the subscriber numbers increase, operators will have to upgrade networks, or users will see performance decrease and start to complain. But the question is whether carriers can upgrade networks before users start experiencing problems, he said. Capacity demand will also force carriers to look at other ways of building mobile networks. It will also drive the demand for so-called femtocells, small base stations for the home that offload mobile network traffic by sending data via a fixed broadband connection. The installed base of HSPA subscribers is not the only area of growth. The number of networks and devices has also exploded.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/infoworld/20080331/tc_infoworld/96844;_ylt=AjJAbNUSBGw.YUg.w_rLfn67rEF

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Commercial Facilities Sector

39. *April 1, Muncie Star Press* – (Indiana) **Bomb found at Marsh warehouse.** An explosive device was recovered early today at the Marsh supermarket warehouse in Yorktown, Indiana, as police continue to investigate the bomb-maker. A warehouse security guard called law enforcement just before midnight reporting that an employee had brought an explosive device to work, according to a 911 dispatch supervisor. No one was injured, and the county's bomb squad confiscated the device, according to a Delaware County sheriff's chief deputy. Yorktown police and sheriff's deputies conducted a search of a home at High and Vine streets this morning to search for more explosive devices. There were no immediate arrests.

Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080401/NEWS02/804010384/1003/BUSINESS>

40. *March 31, Sulphur Southwest Daily News* – (Louisiana) **CPSO arrest Lake Charles man on terrorizing charges.** On March 30th around 8 p.m., the Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the Isle of Capri Casino in Westlake where they learned that a man stole a jet-ski from a boathouse, and drove it to the Isle of Capri where he abandoned it about 15 to 20 yards away from the casino boat. He entered onto the Isle property and told security there was a bomb on the jet-ski. Deputies advised

because of the bomb threat, the casino boat and the tower hotel needed to be evacuated. A short time later CPSO Marine Division arrived and searched the jet-ski for a bomb but none was found. While in route to the Correctional Center Hudson informed the deputy that he had Anthrax in his wallet. His wallet was checked and no Anthrax was found.

Source: <http://www.sulphurdailynews.com/articles/2008/04/01/news/news3.txt>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

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Dams Sector

41. *March 31, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Lock repairs block Mississippi barges.**

Scores of barges and boats have been unable to move on the central section of the Mississippi River because a lock has been closed for emergency repairs. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hoped to reopen Lock 25 by Monday night, allowing traffic to pass for the first time since Wednesday, said a spokesman. By Monday, as many as 195 barges carrying cargo were waiting to clear Lock 25, some of them being held in “fleeting areas.” The repair work involved a hinge on a gate, which opens or closes at the ends of lock chambers so the water level can be raised or lowered, taking vessels to different levels of the river. The river projects manager with the Corps’ St. Louis district said the hinge holding one side of a gate on the lock had been failing. The failing parts had been removed and rebuilt and were expected to be installed Monday night.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080331/ap_on_re_us/mississippi_lock_closed;_ylt=Amc4iXISi8E.9aUY7J6mbd9G2ocA

42. *March 31, KFVS 12 Carbondale* – (Illinois) **Leaky levee concerns continue in**

heartland town. City leaders in Brookport, Illinois, say they are more worried about the Ohio River flooding their town because of a leaky levee than they were last year. All they have right now is a temporary fix to the problem. “If that levee breaks it would probably go all through town,” a resident said. The town’s mayor says the resident has every reason to worry. She asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency to bring in generators and pumps when the rain began almost two weeks ago. They suck out water that threatens to flood Brookport and pump it back into the Ohio River. The mayor says this is just temporary. She wonders what is going on under all the water – where the real problem is. “The water gates here are just gone. The pipes across the levee here are just gone. We need to get those pipes fixed. They’re corroded and rusted out, and just gone,” she said. She realizes a million dollars is a lot to ask the government to dole out, but believes it would cost a lot less to plug up those holes and replace some pipes than it would take to rebuild an entire town after it is flooded out.

Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/Global/story.asp?S=8096470&nav=8H3x>

43. *March 31, Shreveport Times* – (Louisiana) **High water prompts action at Toledo Bend dam.** The aftermath of thunderstorms that hovered over parts of east Texas and Sabine and Natchitoches parishes Sunday is still being felt as water in parts of the region continues to rise. Several roads in Sabine Parish remained closed, and officials who oversee Toledo Bend Reservoir are trying to push out as much water as possible after storms dumped two feet into the massive reservoir in a 24-hour period. As a result, Sabine River Authority (SRA) officials Sunday night put the two hydroelectric generators on a 24-hour schedule, and this morning the earthen dam's spillway gates were opened. At 6:30 a.m., five of the 11 spillway gates were opened one foot each, but by mid-morning all 11 gates were opened. Adjustments are being made almost hourly, the SRA executive director said. Pushing such large volumes of water along the Sabine River south of the dam has the potential of causing flooding along the basin. So far, however, there have been no reports of problems, the director said.

Source:

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080331/BREAKINGNEWS/80331016>

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

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