



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 April 2008

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to IDG News Service, Verisign's iDefense division has tracked more than 1,800 senior managers who have fallen victim to an e-mail scam in which they are told that they have been sued in federal court and must click on a Web link to download court documents. The installed browser plug-in software gives the criminal access to the victim's computer. (See item [31](#))
- WRCTV 4 District of Columbia reports massive security efforts have been under way for Pope Benedict XVI's arrival in Washington, D.C. (See item [35](#))

### **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. *April 15, Reuters* – (International) **Oil sets new record high above \$113.** Oil set new record highs above \$113 a barrel on Tuesday as investors sought to hedge against a battered dollar. U.S. crude rose \$1.80 to \$113.56 a barrel at 10:05 a.m., after touching a record high of \$113.93. London Brent crude was up \$1.91 at \$111.75, after a record high of \$111.85. "The market needs to be adequately supplied and oil-producing countries have their responsibility to respond to higher oil prices," according to excerpts from a speech Britain's prime minister was to give on Tuesday. Due to travel to Washington on Wednesday for talks with the U.S. president, the prime minister said he planned to discuss collective action to bring down oil prices. U.S. crude oil inventory

figures are due on Wednesday.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080415/bs\\_nm/markets\\_oil\\_dc;\\_ylt=AgZo3d5YuxRzg2HpsT7QqLOs0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080415/bs_nm/markets_oil_dc;_ylt=AgZo3d5YuxRzg2HpsT7QqLOs0NUE)

2. *April 15, New York Times* – (National) **New ways to store solar energy for nighttime and cloudy days.** The solar power industry is finding ways to capture the sun's heat so that demand for electricity can be met whenever the sun is not shining. Ausra, a Palo Alto, California-based company is making components for plants to which thermal storage could be added, if the cost were justified by higher prices after sunset or for production that could be realistically promised even if the weather forecast was iffy. Ausra uses Fresnel lenses, which have a short focal length but focus light intensely, to heat miles of black-painted pipe with a fluid inside. SolarReserve plans a slightly different technique. It is a "power tower," a little bit like a water tank on stilts surrounded by hundreds of mirrors that tilt on two axes, one to follow the sun across the sky in the course of the day and the other in the course of the year. In the tower and in a tank below are tens of thousands of gallons of molten salt that can be heated to very high temperatures and not reach high pressure. A manager at Black & Veatch said that with a molten salt design, "your turbine is totally buffered from the vagaries of the sun." A tower design could also allow for operation at higher latitudes or places with less sun. Designers could simply put in bigger fields of mirrors, proponents say. A small start-up, eSolar, is pursuing that design.

Source:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/15/science/earth/15sola.html?\\_r=1&ref=business&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/15/science/earth/15sola.html?_r=1&ref=business&oref=slogin)

3. *April 14, Charlotte Business Journal* – (Midwest; Southeast) **Duke Energy sets goals to reduce emissions.** According to Duke Energy Corp.'s 2007-08 Sustainability Report, Duke Energy Carolinas will retire about one-third of its coal-fired plants, while tripling its gas-fired plants and doubling its nuclear power plants. In addition, the company will nearly double its natural gas-fired generating plants in the Midwest by 2030 and retire about one-fourth of its coal-generating capacity by then. Renewable sources of energy will provide about ten percent of the company's power generation by 2030. The company's goals also include: Reducing nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions this year from its coal-fired plants by ten percent and 35 percent, respectively, from 2006 levels; reducing emissions from its on-road and off-road vehicles by an average of 35 percent by 2012, compared with 2006; and replacing older natural gas lines to reduce leaks. Duke Energy has operations in the Carolinas, Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Source: <http://charlotte.bizjournals.com/charlotte/stories/2008/04/14/daily11.html>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *April 15, State* – (South Carolina) **Chemical site under scrutiny.** A half-dozen aging laboratory bottles, some broken and buried in polluted soil, are prompting renewed federal scrutiny at an abandoned chemical plant site in southeast Columbia, South

Carolina. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will assess the old Columbia Organic Chemical property to determine if contamination is more widespread than expected. The EPA spent the winter digging up 1,500 cubic yards of dioxin-laden soil from the property. But during the \$1 million dioxin cleanup, work crews also ran across about a half-dozen bottles lying in soil the agency later found had been contaminated with arsenic, lead and pesticides. The official said the levels of arsenic, lead and pesticides were “not extremely elevated,” but their presence warrants more study. The Columbia Organic Chemical site has been a flash point for controversy and concern during the past 20 years. The site operated for four decades until closing in 1984 and relocating to Kershaw County. It left behind contamination that prompted neighborhood concern and a state-recommended cleanup in 1995. But after more than 12 years of the state’s failure to launch the cleanup, the Environmental Protection Agency last year said it would dig up dioxin-polluted soil. Dioxin is a potential cancer-causing material. The dioxin cleanup is done, and the polluted soil is awaiting transport to a landfill in Canada sometime in the next month. At that point, the EPA will launch more tests to see the extent of contamination by pesticides, heavy metals and other pollutants.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/local/story/376181.html>

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

5. *April 15, Longview Daily News* – (Idaho; Washington) **Contaminated sand from Gulf War to pass through Longview.** A ship carrying 6,700 tons of sand contaminated with low levels of hazardous waste at a U.S. Army base in Kuwait during the first Gulf War will be unloaded at the Port of Longview in Washington on April 22. The vessel BBC Alabama is delivering 306 containers of the sand, which contains low levels of uranium, to the port, which will then be loaded onto trains bound for a disposal site in Grand View, Idaho, said the port’s director of operations. A cleanup contractor packaged the sand in bags designed to hold hazardous waste and then placed them in a container, said a project manager for Idaho-based American Ecology, the company responsible for disposing of the material. The shipment is safe because the concentration of uranium in the sand is so low – about 10 parts per trillion. American Ecology was required to file a spill-response plan with the government for transporting the material. Longview longshoremen are receiving further instruction later in the week on handling the cargo.  
Source:  
[http://www.tdn.com/articles/2008/04/15/area\\_news/doc48044bd6e597d443239356.txt](http://www.tdn.com/articles/2008/04/15/area_news/doc48044bd6e597d443239356.txt)
6. *April 15, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Nuclear power station gets drought protection.** Duke Energy has finished work at McGuire Nuclear Station that will allow the plant to operate when Lake Norman is at a lower level during an extreme, prolonged drought. “It doesn’t mean that will happen,” a Duke Energy spokeswoman said. The work, which began last fall, changed the elevation of piping at the plant so it can operate at a level of 90 feet, she said. Before the change, the plant could operate only down to 93 feet. The change gives Duke greater flexibility in handling water demands upstream and downstream of the plant in a prolonged drought, she said. Concerns have abated with the lake level rising at least four feet in recent months. Lake Norman’s level is at its highest

point in at least a year. The level was at 98.6 feet on Thursday, with 100 considered full. Another Duke spokeswoman said recently that the region still needs at least another six months of average rainfall for the drought to be lifted. “Our groundwater has improved slightly, but our stream flows have not responded yet,” she said.

Source: <http://www.charlotte.com/business/story/581416.html>

7. *April 14, Reuters* – (International) **Israel, U.S. to share nuclear safety research.** The U.S. has agreed to boost nuclear safety cooperation with Israel, an Israeli official said on Monday. An agreement, signed about two weeks ago between the Israel Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), gives Israel additional access to research in nuclear safety, said an IAEC spokeswoman. The NRC said on the agreement: “The NRC shares safety-related information as broadly as possible. The NRC has amended its agreement in this case according to the State Department’s guidance on sharing information with Israel.” The IAEC spokeswoman said: “Until now, the Atomic Energy Commission only had access to information from the NRC that was in the public domain. Now Israel will be able to see 93 percent of the NRC’s research in nuclear safety.” The IAEC will be able to learn and compare technologies with the U.S. agency and send its scientists to courses offered in the U.S.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSL1425693520080414>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

8. *April 2008, National Defense* – (National) **Undersea combat simulators needed, Navy says.** There is a great need for anti-submarine warfare training technologies, says the deputy chief of naval operations for manpower, personnel, training, and education. Current simulation projects do not consider anti-submarine warfare a top priority. But some companies see a potential market. Delex Systems Inc., which has modeled the ocean floor in several previous projects, has developed a software architecture called BattleNet 360 that can teach sailors on an individual or group basis how to operate various Navy systems. It is designed to sit on top of existing hardware and can employ databases of realistic models into war fighting scenarios. “It’s all set up and ready to go for submarine sonar acoustic models,” says the program manager of the company’s tactics and simulation group.  
Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2008/April/Undersea.htm>
9. *April 2008, National Defense* – (National) **Sensors tag shooters in less than a second.** A wearable, 6.4 ounce sensor, developed by QinetiQ North America, can quickly detect the location of snipers. The Ears Sniper Detection System audibly cues soldiers on the direction and distance of hostile fire within a tenth of a second of the first shot, says a spokesman. Ears in a vehicle traveling more than 50 miles per hour was able to instantly locate snipers by shockwave and muzzle blast signatures. It compares to existing sniper detection systems that weigh up to 200 pounds.  
Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2008/April/Tech.htm#Sensors>
10. *April 2008, National Defense* – (National) **Amphibious vehicle is a car for all seasons.**

Following four years of research and development, Hydratrek LLC, a Covington, Tennessee, company is now marketing Hydratrek – a heavy duty emergency response vehicle that can endure hazardous conditions. The 2,500-pound multi-wheel amphibious vehicle can swim through swamps, mud, and water, and negotiate rough off-road terrain. A company spokesman says the aluminum clad vehicle is suited for a range of missions that span disaster response, emergency rescue, law enforcement, environmental research, and geological surveying.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2008/April/Tech.htm#Sensors>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *April 15, Associated Press* – (National) **Survey: Online banking satisfaction up.**

Customer satisfaction with online banking sites has risen significantly over the past five years, according to a survey released Tuesday by ForeSee Results. ForeSee's survey uses the University of Michigan's American Customer Satisfaction Index, and this year, the index registered a score of 82 out of 100 for online banking, up 12 percent, or 9 points, from a score of 73 in 2003. The reading of 82 was higher than customers gave banks overall – 78 in 2007 – suggesting they are more pleased with banks' online operations than with branches and call centers. The score is also strong compared to other arenas: Online retailers, the highest-scoring category measured by the ACSI, recently scored 83. Satisfaction is up partly because people are more comfortable banking online than they used to be, said ForeSee Results' president and CEO. Other big reasons he include efforts by banks to boost security, allow more types of transactions, and ease navigation. The same survey showed that highly satisfied online banking customers are 31 percent more likely to buy additional services from the bank and 54 percent more likely to recommend the bank to others. So as banks wrangle with a deteriorating credit climate and huge mortgage-related losses, they will need to keep investing in their Web sites to hold onto their customers. The survey measured customers' experiences with three types of financial institutions – banks, credit card companies and investment services firms. Results were not broken down for individual banks. Banks got the highest score out of the three financial categories.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080415/ap\\_on\\_hi\\_te/online\\_banking\\_survey;\\_ylt=AnI4UD9QUmv3y6L4cG0KliCs0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080415/ap_on_hi_te/online_banking_survey;_ylt=AnI4UD9QUmv3y6L4cG0KliCs0NUE)

12. *April 15, AccountingWEB* – (National) **SEC foils Craig's List identity theft**

**scammers.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) took action last week to stop a sophisticated Internet scheme that stole the identities of unsuspecting individuals and netted more than \$66,000 in illicit profits in just seven weeks. In a complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, the SEC alleged that one or more unknown traders conducted their entire online account intrusion scheme over the Internet and concealed their identities by, among other things, fraudulently opening brokerage accounts in the names of individuals who responded to a job advertisement on the Web site Craig's List. According to the SEC's complaint, the unknown traders posted an advertisement on Craig's List beginning in February 2007 for a job with a



fictitious Latvian brokerage firm, AWE Trading, Inc. Individuals who responded to the advertisement provided their personal information, including Social Security numbers and dates of birth to AWE via the Internet for purported company background checks. The suspects then used this personal information to open securities trading accounts online at Interactive Brokers LLC without the individuals' knowledge. The SEC's complaint further alleges that, on multiple occasions between March 8 and April 24, 2007, the suspects gained unauthorized, online access to accounts held by customers of various retail brokerage firms. They purchased and sold at least 18 securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ. The unknown traders simultaneously bought and sold the same securities in the accounts they opened fraudulently, profiting from the change in trading volume and stock prices generated by the unauthorized transactions. In April 2007, Interactive Brokers detected suspicious trading in the involved accounts, suspended activity and froze the funds in the account.

Source: <http://www.accountingweb.com/cgi-bin/item.cgi?id=104958&d=883&h=884&f=882&dateformat=%25e-%25h-%25y>

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## **Transportation Sector**

13. *April 15, DuosTech* – (District of Columbia) **Duos receives award to expand Washington DC rail corridor security project.** Duos Technologies, Inc. has been awarded a contract to expand its existing intelligent video and security sensor system along a segment of the Amtrak and CSX rail system running through downtown Washington DC. The project includes a comprehensive virtual security buffer zone within which any moving object is detected, analyzed, and authenticated. Events such as perimeter breaches, objects left behind or removed from a scene, and loitering behavior are compared to set rules and processed as an actionable alarm event if they meet certain criteria. The system is capable of processing input from radio frequency identification (RFID) tags and from a host of security sensitive detectors. Data from the system is monitored by Amtrak and CSX Police, as well as made available to other federal, district and local authorities and agencies.

Source:

[http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20080415005297&newsLang=en](http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20080415005297&newsLang=en)

14. *April 15, Boston Globe* – (National) **American Airlines pilots plan protest.** To call attention to what they say is American Airlines Inc.'s poor performance, hundreds of the carrier's pilots plan to protest Tuesday at key airports and some of the airline's shareholders' or corporate clients' headquarters in nine cities - including in Boston at Logan Airport and Fidelity Investments. The pilots union, Allied Pilots Association, which is in the midst of contract negotiations with American, said it expects 30 to 50 protesters at each site between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The union said the protest will not disrupt flights. In addition to Boston, protests are scheduled to take place at airports in Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C., and on Wall Street, and outside the headquarters of companies such as Anheuser-Busch Corp., Boeing Corp., Citibank Inc., and Tribune Media Services.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/04/15/american\\_airlines\\_pilots\\_plan\\_prot\\_est/](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/04/15/american_airlines_pilots_plan_prot_est/)

15. *April 14, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **TSA’s air cargo plans questioned.** In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, Congress passed a law to require that 100 percent of air cargo carried on passenger jets be inspected. Now, the author of that legislation has concerns about how that law will be implemented. A U.S. senator says he has heard reports the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) may try to meet the mandate by requiring companies that pack cargo shipments to perform the screening themselves, before the cargo ever gets to the airport. That, he says, raises real security issues. “If cargo is screened before it reaches the airport, which appears to be a central element of TSA’s plans to comply with the law, how will it be sealed to prevent tampering?” asked the official. “It remains unclear whether a secure chain of custody can be established to make certain that bombs or other dangerous items are not inserted into cargo after screening occurs.” He adds that TSA is in the preliminary stages of testing its approach, but says if the agency’s plans ultimately fall short, Congress will need to take steps to ensure that the air cargo security mandates in the 9/11 Commission law are met. The law was signed in August 2007, implementing recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. It requires all cargo carried on passenger planes be screened at a level of security commensurate to the security applied to airline passengers’ checked bags.

Source: [http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/04/tsa\\_cargo.html](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/04/tsa_cargo.html)

16. *April 14, Associated Press* – (National) **Carriers have years to comply with new wave of inspections.** Federal regulators on Monday ordered inspections for hundreds of Boeing jetliners over potential problems with wing de-icing systems, certain planes’ main landing gear and the oxygen masks used by passengers. The new order affecting the most planes includes regular inspections and the possible replacement of main landing gear components on older Boeing 737s used by Delta Air Lines Inc., Continental Airlines Inc., Southwest Airlines, United Airlines and other carriers. The order, effective May 19, affects 3,130 planes worldwide, including 1,380 in the U.S., and could cost between \$5,258 and \$6,192 per plane depending on their configuration. Another new order, effective May 19, affects Boeing 757s used by a number of domestic carriers and requires regular inspections of a wing de-icing system after cracks were found. Northwest Airlines asked the FAA to change the intervals for inspections to 24 months from 6,000 flight hours, and to increase to eight hours from two the estimated time needed for inspections. Regulators rejected both requests on that directive, which affects 530 aircraft in the U.S. at an estimated cost of \$160 per plane per inspection cycle. The same Boeing 757s also must be inspected within 60 months to determine the manufacturer and manufacture date of the oxygen masks for use by passengers and crewmembers after a report that “several passenger masks with broken inline flow indicators were found following a mask deployment.” Also effective May 19, it applies to 640 planes in the U.S. with an estimated cost of \$1,600 per jet. The FAA also ordered carriers flying certain Airbus aircraft to reinforce part of the fuselage due to the “potential loss of structural integrity ... during extreme rolling and vertical maneuver combinations.” That directive applies to 160 planes in the U.S. and could cost up to

\$16,160 per aircraft. Operators, including American, United Parcel Service and FedEx Corp., must make the changes within 2,500 flight cycles of the May 19 effective date.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-04-14-new-wave-of-faa-inspections\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-04-14-new-wave-of-faa-inspections_N.htm)

17. *April 14, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **FAA glitch resolved.** Air travel is back to normal following a glitch at a Virginia air traffic control facility that delayed flights from airports across the northeast. The FAA's Washington "en route" center shut down for about 10 minutes Saturday afternoon. FAA officials said it was not immediately clear how many flights were delayed. A backup radar system handled traffic already airborne, but while the computer was down, airports from Virginia to New England were ordered to hold traffic on the ground. When the system came back, airborne flights were handled before flights on the ground were allowed to take off. The breakdown is being investigated. No one was endangered.

Source: <http://www.wtvr.com/Global/story.asp?S=8158375> and <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jokyVIZuvvkA0mqeRQfLObUo5pwAD900JPQ83>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

18. *April 15, WKBT 8 La Crosse* – (Wisconsin) **Explosives found in La Crosse Co. mailboxes.** The La Crosse County Sheriff's Department is investigating three separate cases of home-made explosives being left in mailboxes. Two of the explosives were found before they blew up, but the other went off in the town of Hamilton early this morning. Authorities believe these cases are related because all three of the explosives were found within a two-mile radius of each other and were similar in design. On Saturday morning, the Dane County Bomb Squad was called up to a home on County Road OA in the town of Barre after a man found one of the explosives. Then shortly before 1 a.m. Monday morning, a bomb exploded in a mailbox in the township of Hamilton. Early Monday afternoon, authorities were informed of another device in a mailbox on a road near County Road OA.

Source: <http://wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=8162569&nav=KoJEKt8q>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

19. *April 15, Farm Futures* – (National) **Wheat development and corn planting behind schedule.** With the continued onslaught of wet weather this spring, corn planting was expected to have a slow start, a prediction that was confirmed by the U.S. Agriculture Department's (USDA) first official crop progress report. Only two percent of corn has been planted, which is behind the five-year-average of seven percent at this time. A USDA meteorologist says Illinois is lagging on planting and that wet conditions have put several other states seriously behind their normal planting pace. "In Kentucky only one percent is planted with a five-year-average of 26 percent," he says. "We also have Missouri with only two percent planted compared to the five-year average of 32 percent



and Tennessee with five percent versus 42 percent for the five-year-average.” The crop report also shows that winter wheat heading is also slightly behind the normal pace with only four percent at that stage, but considering freezing conditions that struck over the weekend, it may be good that cold weather has delayed development of the winter wheat crop. Last year, when an April freeze hit, more than 21 percent of winter wheat had reached the heading stage.

Source:

<http://www.farmfutures.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=CD26BEDECA4A4946A1283CC7786AEB5A&nm=News&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&tier=3&nid=46702CEA22AA41A5ABE0A47B726011DD>

20. *April 15, Penn State Daily Collegian* – (National) **Food safety not meeting standards.**

Two years after a spinach scare that left leafy greens off the menu in Centre County, Pennsylvania, and around the nation, researchers say food safety standards still need improvement. Despite states’ efforts to control food-borne illnesses, the number of infections has not reduced in the past year, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) researchers said Thursday. The CDC tracked 2007 data of diagnosed infections in ten states, and 17,883 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection were identified, according to the report. The 2006 tainted spinach scare caused local vendors to stop selling the product until it was deemed safe. Ten Pennsylvanians had the outbreak strain, according to an October 2006 report from the CDC. The CDC’s findings emphasize the importance of monitoring by local, state, and federal health authorities from the time leafy greens are harvested through the preparation process, according to the CDC.

Source:

[http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archive/2008/04/15/food\\_safety\\_not\\_meeting\\_standards.aspx](http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archive/2008/04/15/food_safety_not_meeting_standards.aspx)

21. *April 14, Associated Press* – (National) **Food costs rising fastest in 17 years.** The U.S. is wrestling with the worst food inflation in 17 years, and analysts expect new data due on Wednesday to show it is getting worse. This is straining poor families and forcing bakeries to explain price increases to their customers. U.S. food prices rose four percent in 2007, compared with an average 2.5 percent annual rise for the last 15 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And the agency says 2008 could be worse, with a rise of as much as 4.5 percent. Higher prices for food and energy are again expected to play a leading role in pushing the government’s consumer price index higher for March. Analysts are forecasting that Wednesday’s Department of Labor report will show the Consumer Price Index rose at a four percent annual rate in the first three months of the year, up from last year’s overall rise of 2.8 percent.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j141xpQbQaZLSb8xu1TvSSP-eZ6gD901RJLG1>

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## **Water Sector**

22. *April 15, Meriden Record-Journal* – (Connecticut) **PCBs found in soil near water treatment plant.** Contamination found near the water treatment plant on Maxwell Nobel Drive contains PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). Discovery of the contamination

last week brought construction of the denitrification plan to a halt after representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environmental Protection inspected the site and called for soil testing. The Town Council received a report on the contamination Tuesday night from environmental professionals and the plant supervisor. "PCBs were discharged into our system through the '70s without our knowledge," said the plant supervisor. He told the council that industrial wastewater containing the chemical flowed into the plant and was deposited in the sludge byproduct. The \$14 million plant was to have been completed in 18 months as part of a state mandate to reduce the amount of nitrogen that is discharged into the Quinnipiac River. The samples will be analyzed and the results given to the town within a few days.

Source:

[http://www.myrecordjournal.com/site/tab1.cfm?newsid=19483937&BRD=2755&PAG=461&dept\\_id=592709&rfi=6](http://www.myrecordjournal.com/site/tab1.cfm?newsid=19483937&BRD=2755&PAG=461&dept_id=592709&rfi=6)

23. *April 14, Reuters* – (National) **Dental offices may be source of mercury pollution.**

Dental practices may be a source of a dangerous form of mercury contamination in the water supply, a small study by researchers at the University of Illinois suggests. In tests of wastewater from two dental practices, the researchers found high levels of methylated mercury – a chemically altered form of the metal that is toxic to the brain and nervous system. Mercury is part of the silver dental fillings that have long been used to treat cavities; in this form, mercury is believed to be safe. However, when dentists use drills to remove these fillings, the tiny mercury particles that end up in dental wastewater are exposed to sulfate-reducing bacteria that convert the particles into methyl mercury. The findings, published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, raise the concern that dental offices may be a major source of methyl mercury in the public water supply.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSCOL46803820080414?feedType=RSS&feedName=healthNews>

24. *April 14, KOTA 3 Rapid City* – (South Dakota) **Drought's long-term effects beginning to show.**

The eight year-long drought in western South Dakota is as bad as some in the forest industry have ever seen, and a new report from the Izaak Walton League of America says the long term effects have begun to show up in the state's wildlife populations. "Streams are drying up, stock ponds are drying up, so animals are having to search out and move to where they can find water," a wildlife biologist with the Black Hills National Forest said. The drought is also impacting forest lands and killing trees. And perhaps most of all, it is damaging rivers and streams and reducing the populations and the size of local fish. The report even finds that South Dakota is in danger of losing up to 90 percent of its wetlands, which could reduce breeding duck populations by as much as 70 percent.

Source: <http://www.kotatv.com/global/story.asp?s=8165558>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

25. *April 15, Associated Press* – (International) **FDA plans to open China office in May.** U.S. food and drug regulators will start working in China next month once Beijing gives its final approval, the top U.S. health official said Tuesday. The Secretary of Health and Human Services said the Food and Drug Administration is planning to open an office in China as part of a change in strategy following product safety problems in Chinese imports that prompted several health scares and have been linked to some deaths. About 40 percent of pharmaceuticals and 80 percent of the chemical ingredients in drugs are imported, according to U.S. government statistics. A growing share comes from developing countries – such as China, India, and Mexico – that are still building their own drug safety systems.  
Source: [http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g0uMutzy-clpmARO\\_9rj1Mx7FQUwD9029NC02](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g0uMutzy-clpmARO_9rj1Mx7FQUwD9029NC02)
26. *April 15, Los Angeles Times* – (California; National) **Healthcare system unprepared for aging boomers, study finds.** The American medical system is woefully unprepared for the flood of aging baby boomers, according to a sweeping federal study released Monday, which predicted crisis-level shortages in healthcare workers and serious gaps in training. The Institute of Medicine report – “Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce” – estimates that there currently is only one physician certified in geriatrics for every 2,500 older Americans and that turnover among nurse’s aides averages 71 percent annually. In California, the situation is even more dire. Although the institute’s study focused on the national picture, a state legislative report estimated that there is only one geriatrician for every 4,000 Californians age 65 and older. In addition, only three percent of social work students specialize in gerontology, only five percent have taken a course on aging, and the state faces a shortfall of 30,000 certified nursing assistants who care for the frail elderly in convalescent homes, according to the California Strategic Plan on Aging Advisory Committee. Although California’s median age is one of the lowest in the country, according to the Census Bureau, there were nearly four million residents age 65 and older in 2006; that number is expected to more than double by 2030. Florida had just over three million residents 65 and older in 2006.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-na-health15apr15,1,1627164.story>
27. *April 14, MedHeadlines* – (International) **Bird flu hits South Korea.** An official for South Korea’s Agriculture Ministry has confirmed the fourth outbreak of the deadly bird flu virus strain H5N1 so far this year. The latest outbreak occurred on a farm in Yeoungam, about 236 miles southwest of Seoul, and resulted in the preventive slaughter of about 470,000 chickens and ducks farmed within a roughly two-mile radius from the farm. The current slaughter brings the number of birds eliminated to about 1.3 million so far this year. The first outbreak this year was reported earlier this month, with three other outbreaks soon following. There are an additional six suspected outbreaks of the virus, and tests to identify the strain of the virus are under way. South Korea lost close to 2.8 million birds from November 2006 to March 2007 in outbreaks on seven poultry

farms.

Source: <http://medheadlines.com/2008/04/14/bird-flu-hits-south-korea/>

28. *April 13, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Nearly 300 people immunized against measles in Milwaukee.** The Milwaukee Health Department says nearly 300 people are now immunized against the measles. The vaccinations were given out Saturday as part of the city's effort to curb an outbreak of the disease. Four people in the area, including three young children from a daycare, have been diagnosed with the highly contagious disease. The health department hosted two clinics on Saturday, and in total about 290 people were immunized. The health department says no new cases have been reported so far.

Source: <http://www.wbay.com/Global/story.asp?S=8159170>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

29. *April 14, Union Democrat* – (California) **Rural counties face emergency medical response crisis.** The grim prospect of six million rural Californians and tens of millions of tourists being at risk in the face of a medical emergency looms in the face of pending cutbacks in state funding. If state plans to cut funding by ten percent become reality, the availability of ambulances and trained personnel to staff them would likely be the first casualties, according to the executive director of the Mountain-Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency. Mountain-Valley is one of seven regional EMS agencies serving rural areas impacted by extensive tourism. A state law enacted in 1981 promised special funding for multi-county EMS agencies to reduce the burden of providing increased services to wayfarers visiting the sometimes remote countryside. The agency oversees the delivery of pre-hospital emergency medical care to a region comprised of Calaveras, Amador, Alpine, Stanislaus, and Mariposa Counties and works under a host of state-mandated regulations, standards, and service requirements. "This service is hanging by a thread," said Calaveras County's representative on the Mountain-Valley board. "It isn't just a question of having ambulances available, we need personnel in them properly trained to do the right thing."

Source: [http://www.uniondemocrat.com/news/story.cfm?story\\_no=26304](http://www.uniondemocrat.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=26304)

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## **Information Technology**

30. *April 15, Register* – (International) **Pro-Tibet rootkit Trojan poses as cartoon.** Malware writers have attempted a second Olympics related malware attack in one week.

A movie file circulating on the net that poses as a cartoon ridiculing the effort of a Chinese gymnast at the games, followed by images supporting a free Tibet, has been booby-trapped with malware. While the Flash-based movie runs, a keystroke logging tool is silently installed on the victim's Windows PC. The malware is hidden by rootkit functionality, making it harder to detect and remove. The malicious cartoon is distributed as an email attachment called "RaceForTibet.exe". Data captured by the keystroke logger is sent to a computer in China. As usual, the threat affects Windows PCs only. Discovery of the keystroke logger with a rootkit comes a day after net security firm McAfee warned that pro-Tibet websites were being modified by attackers to host malicious software. The Fribet Trojan horse was placed on hacked websites and subsequently loaded onto the PCs through a Windows vulnerability. As previously reported, the Fribet Trojan contained sophisticated functionality that enabled it to gain access to databases accessed through compromised PCs.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/04/15/pro\\_tibet\\_trojan/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/04/15/pro_tibet_trojan/)

31. *April 14, IDG News Service* – (International) **Criminals hack CEOs with fake subpoenas.** Security researchers say that thousands have fallen victim to an e-mail scam in which senior managers are told that they have been sued in federal court and must click on a Web link to download court documents. Victims of the crime are taken to a phony Web site where they are told they need to install browser plug-in software to view the documents. That software gives the criminals access to the victim's computer. This type of targeted e-mail attack, called "spear-phishing," is a variation on the more common "phishing" attack. Both attacks use fake e-mail messages to try to lure victims to malicious Web sites, but with spear-phishing the attackers try to make their messages more believable by including information tailored to the victim. Verisign's iDefense division has tracked more than 1,800 victims who clicked on the message. "This is probably one of the largest spear-phishing attacks we've seen to date in terms of number of victims," said the director of iDefense's Rapid Response Team. Verisign believes that the criminals behind this scam are the same ones who launched an attack last month that used fake e-mails that appeared to be from the Better Business Bureau. And the U.S. courts have been warning computer users for years now of an ongoing scam where victims are told that they have failed to show up for jury duty and then asked to enter sensitive information into a phishing site.

Source:

[http://www.cio.com/article/334770/Criminals\\_Hack\\_CEOs\\_with\\_Fake\\_Subpoenas/1](http://www.cio.com/article/334770/Criminals_Hack_CEOs_with_Fake_Subpoenas/1)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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

32. *April 15, IT Pro* – (National) **Apple iPhone vulnerable through Safari.** A security vulnerability has been discovered in the Safari browser of the most recent version of the Apple iPhone software, according to security vendor Radware's research team. A denial of service (DoS) problem occurs when an iPhone user opens a HTML page containing Javascript, which manifests the vulnerability. Users would be driven to the page by can social engineering such as spam mail or spam SMS. Once this happens, the user will experience an application DoS which will crash the Safari browser and possibly the entire iPhone. Radware said that the Safari browser was vulnerable due to a design flaw triggered by a series of memory allocation operations on the dynamic memory pool, which then triggers a bug in the garbage collector. The flaw is currently unpatched, with Radware claiming users were vulnerable until an update is issued by Apple.

Source: <http://www.itpro.co.uk/wireless/news/187851/apple-iphone-vulnerable-through-safari.html>

33. *April 15, VNU Net* – (National) **Poor infrastructure holding back software services.** Outdated network infrastructure is holding back the development of software-as-a-service (SaaS), according to security vendor Check Point. SaaS is one of the key growth areas of 2008, especially providing security as a service. But the outdated nature of many corporate networks is holding back the implementation of such services. "Most of the network infrastructure was built around the turn of the century and was not built with enough scalability," said Check Point's founder. "Many of the pipes today are not secure enough [for SaaS]. The next generation of networks will be more on the SaaS model, with more scalability and better reconfiguration models." He added that companies and their partners are much more interested in providing SaaS, and that network infrastructure is not the only thing that will have to change.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2214307/network-infrastructure-software-services>

34. *April 15, Doylestown Intelligencer* – (Pennsylvania) **Board, Verizon talking again about FiOS service.** Frustrated with regulations and fees in Buckingham Township, Pennsylvania, Verizon more or less walked away from efforts to install its fiber optic Internet service there about two years ago. Recent developments have prompted the company to return to discussions, said the acting township manger. To get the ball rolling again, Buckingham officials plan to rescind a right-of-way ordinance, a law approved in 2005 that requires utilities to pay certain permit fees in order to use township-owned rights of way. The amount of those fees was unclear. For its part, Verizon has said it will agree to bring FiOS to the whole township within six years. A "significant" part of the township will be wired within three years. None of the talks has produced a formal agreement yet, although that is expected. Franchise negotiations could begin in May. Fiber optic cable also carries the capacity for telephone and cable-TV service, in addition to broadband Internet.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/113-04152008-1519274.html>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

35. *April 14, WRCTV 4 District of Columbia* – (District of Columbia) **Security prepares to protect Pope, public.** Law enforcement authorities prepared on Monday for Pope Benedict XVI's arrival in Washington, DC. Outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, landscapers, cleaners and construction crews prepared the shrine for the pope's stop there Wednesday, but behind the scenes, a massive security effort was under way. The Secret Service is expecting 8,000 ticketed spectators on the lawn outside the shrine and members of the public lining Fourth Street to see the pontiff as he takes a short pope-mobile ride from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' building to the Basilica. Agents ran through practice scenarios Monday with the pope-mobile in Beltsville. The Secret Service has already had practice at Nationals Park, where the papal Mass will be held Thursday. President George W. Bush attended the opening game at the stadium a few weeks ago. Now the field is being transformed into a church, but ticketed churchgoers will face some extra screening. The Coast Guard will block access to the river from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday from the 11th Street Bridge to the mouth of the river. Response boats will be on duty with machine guns positioned on the bow. "This is a significant security event, equal to things that we do in our Homeland Security patrols daily," said a Washington Coast Guard Station official. Source: <http://www.nbc4.com/news/15880311/detail.html>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Dams Sector**

36. *April 15, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Levee 'emergency' is off.** Levees protecting neighborhoods in Sacramento's Natomas basin might be substandard, but they do not represent an emergency situation, the head of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) has concluded in recommending against asking California's governor for an emergency declaration to accelerate Natomas levee repairs. Such a declaration, he said, could delay the needed work by upsetting "environmental groups and property groups, who would accuse [the agency] of being heavy-handed," he said. Despite losing this round, supporters may continue to press the region's elected officials to consider an emergency declaration. SAFCA proposes to raise and strengthen nearly 25 miles of Natomas levees at an estimated cost of \$576 million. The work is required after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ruled in 2006 that the levees do not meet minimal standards for urban safety. As a result, Natomas now faces a mandatory flood insurance requirement and a likely building moratorium next year. The proposed repairs are

complex, with some 1,500 “execution tasks” that must be achieved to keep the project on track.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/862062.html>

*April 15, Daily & Sunday Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Ridgebury Township faces dam dilemma.** After heavy rains in 1996, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) required Ridgebury Township, Pennsylvania, to have the Miller Pond Dam inspected. The DEP has “deemed the dam ‘high hazard’ because of the way it was built,” a township supervisor said. In the event of a “Maximum Probable Flood Event,” which is 24 inches of rain falling in 12 hours, the DEP said the culvert would not be able to hold the outflow from Hidden Valley Lake, and the road and dam would be overflowed.

Source:

[http://www.thedailyreview.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19484129&BRD=2276&PAG=461&dept\\_id=465049&rfi=6](http://www.thedailyreview.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19484129&BRD=2276&PAG=461&dept_id=465049&rfi=6)

*April 14, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **High water, construction could prove dangerous to levee stability.** With the Mississippi River again creeping up its banks, authorities are scrambling to stop nearby construction and demolition because the work could undermine levees during this vulnerable period of high water. Pile driving, excavation, and other dirt-moving procedures are never allowed within 1,500 feet of a river levee unless the Army Corps of Engineers determines that it is not a threat to levee stability. Even then it must be permitted by the appropriate levee district, officials said. But enforcement of these restrictions is more critical than ever when the river is high and levee damage could result, said the executive director of the East Jefferson Levee District. She said levee district police officers and inspectors are checking multiple work sites daily and have shut down about a dozen of them. They have halted home building, swimming pool construction, a house raising, apartment renovations, fence removal, and other activities. Police also are driving side streets within the 1,500-foot zone grid in search of violators. Some of the halted activities have permits that the levee district issued before the Mississippi River hit an elevation of 11 feet at the Carrollton gauge last month, the point at which invasive work must stop. But a permit still does not allow work during periods of high water. The paperwork simply makes it more efficient for authorities to visit each site to ensure work has stopped.

Source: [http://blog.nola.com/updates/2008/04/with\\_the\\_mississippi\\_river\\_aga.html](http://blog.nola.com/updates/2008/04/with_the_mississippi_river_aga.html)

*April 13, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Corps opens dam spillway to relieve flood water in Arkansas.** Engineers cracked open spillways Saturday at Bull Shoals Lake, Arkansas, allowing excess water brimming near the rim of the dam to rush down the White River to communities already flooded by weeks of rain. Meanwhile, two people drowned Friday in Yell County when their pickup truck left water-covered Arkansas 28 and sank over the top of its cab in floodwaters next to the highway, the sheriff’s office said. Both forecasters and officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the new water would not push river levels much higher than already seen through Arkansas’ Delta region. However, any new rains washing into the reservoirs making up White River basin would put even more pressure on lakes that likely will not drop for months.

By Saturday afternoon, river monitors showed a more than 20-foot drop. Forecasters said a 34-foot crest should hit Augusta and Newport down river Sunday. The levels will only be just slightly above what hit the communities during March flooding, a hydrologist with the National Weather Service in North Little Rock said. The weather service predicted a 34.2-foot crest to hit Des Arc by Thursday, while flood levels should remain about 32 feet near Clarendon. More than three-fourths of Arkansas' counties have been declared disaster areas by the governor since tornadoes tore across the state February 5. The White River, which cut off the community of Georgetown and flooded many homes, has dropped slightly over time since. However, high reservoir levels forced the Corps to open spillways.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,351149,00.html>

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