



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 April 2008

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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

- Foster's Daily Democrat reports the Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, will be closed from April 21 to April 26 for much needed repair work, forcing commuters to seek alternate routes across the Piscataqua River. (See item [15](#))
- According to the Associated Press, a homeless man has come forward with two sets of confidential blueprints for the planned New York City Freedom Tower that he says were dumped in a lower Manhattan trash can. The agency that owns the World Trade Center site calls it a serious security lapse. (See item [41](#))

### **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 18, Kalamazoo Gazette* – (Michigan) **Midwestern quake felt in Kalamazoo.** Tremors shook Kalamazoo, Michigan, Friday morning as a result of an earthquake in Illinois. Palisades Power Plant in Covert Township, Michigan, declared unusual activity at 6:03 a.m. and auxiliary operators were instructed to check all areas of the facility. No damage was reported, and the plant continues to run at full power, a spokesman said. Source: <http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-28/120853021432870.xml&coll=7>
2. *April 17, One Bakersfield* – (California) **Anti acid group gets police and fire support.**

Bakersfield police officers and the city's firefighters have joined forces with Kern County firefighters and local residents in opposing Big West's use of hydrofluoric acid as part of the company's proposed refinery expansion in west Bakersfield. Hydrofluoric acid can form a vapor cloud that can travel for miles, causing burns, blindness, respiratory damage, and even death. There are over 200,000 people that live, work, and go to school near the refinery. "The public safety leaders in our community are sending a strong and unified message – hydrofluoric acid in any form is extremely dangerous and should not be part of the refinery's plans because of its potential impacts on the health and safety of the people of Bakersfield and Kern County," said a county firefighter. Big West's proposal will be considered by the Kern County Planning Commission and, ultimately, the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

Source: <http://www.1bakersfield.com/news/read/2/152032>

3. *April 17, Tribune-Democrat* – (Pennsylvania) **Ground broken on wind project.** EverPower Renewables Corp. will construct 25 new wind turbines on former Adams Township strip mines to produce clean energy. Construction will begin immediately on the \$140 million project's first phase, to be completed by December, the company's president said. The 25 turbines will produce 62 megawatts of electricity – enough to power 30,000 homes. At the same time, EverPower will work to restore the former strip mine. "We are taking a brownfield site and turning it into a green site," he said. A second, 25-turbine phase is in the works for next year, raising the Highland Wind Project's output to more than 130 megawatts. That would make it the second- largest wind project in the state, he said.

Source: [http://www.tribune-democrat.com/local/local\\_story\\_108231514.html](http://www.tribune-democrat.com/local/local_story_108231514.html)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

Nothing to Report

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

4. *April 18, Quad-City Times* – (Illinois) **Exelon Nuclear reports Illinois plants not affected by earthquake.** Exelon Nuclear announced this morning that none of its six Illinois nuclear energy stations was affected by the seismic activity in southern Illinois Friday morning. According to the company, plant equipment continued to function normally at each of the six operating nuclear stations. Each plant has been operating at its normal power level throughout the morning. Station operators and technical experts conducted extensive inspections when the seismic activity occurred, including "walkdowns" to search for potential damage. Additional plant walkdowns were scheduled throughout the day. In a news release, Exelon said nuclear energy plants are designed specifically to withstand the effects of earthquakes and other severe acts of nature. The quake, reported to be 5.2 in the Richter scale, did not challenge the engineered design of any of the six plants.

Source:

<http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2008/04/18/news/local/doc4808ba5edf20e515220298.txt?sPos=2>

5. *April 18, WNDU 16 South Bend* – (Michigan) **Cook Nuclear Plant follows emergency procedures after earthquake.** The Cook Nuclear Plant, operated by American Electric Power, followed their emergency procedures this morning as a result of the earthquake. Even though no alarms went off at the plant indicating an emergency, the lowest level of emergency classifications was declared around 6:00 a.m. The Cook plant inspected all systems and equipment for damage. So far, no damage has been identified. One unit was at full power at the time of the earthquake, and remains at full power with no plans to reduce its power output.

Source: <http://www.wndu.com/localnews/headlines/17907914.html>

6. *April 18, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Nuclear-plant analyses ordered.** Signaling that aging nuclear-power plants may face greater scrutiny, U.S. regulators have told utilities to more rigorously analyze metal fatigue at several sites, including two opposed by environmentalists. The heightened scrutiny comes as a slew of older plants, dating to the late 1960s and early 1970s, seek operating-license renewals from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120847674445424819.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120847674445424819.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

7. *April 18, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Vermont weighs longer life for state's aging nuclear reactor.** Lawmakers have to decide next year whether to shut down Vermont's lone nuclear power plant in 2012 as scheduled or keep it open for another two decades. The debate among lawmakers about whether to close the plant could only happen in Vermont, the only state with a law giving its Legislature veto power over continued operation of a reactor beyond the expiration of its license. Such questions generally are left to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). A member of the Progressive Party whose district is near Vermont Yankee's site said that "there's a lack of confidence in the NRC's oversight process by many, many citizens of the state of Vermont." Some question whether plant owner Entergy Nuclear Operations will have enough money in the Vermont Yankee decommissioning fund when it comes time to dismantle the plant, especially given a corporate restructuring Entergy has proposed. Even if the Legislature decides that the plant has to shut down in 2012, the battle may merely move to the courts. States are generally pre-empted from regulating the safety aspects of nuclear power, and the NRC spokesman said his agency guards its prerogative in that realm carefully. If Vermont "crosses over into trying to regulate nuclear safety, then that would be of concern to us," he said.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080418/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/vermont\\_reactor;\\_ylt=Ao3EvEi8wN09w2gd8eOXRFes0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080418/ap_on_re_us/vermont_reactor;_ylt=Ao3EvEi8wN09w2gd8eOXRFes0NUE)

8. *April 18, NorthJersey.com* – (New Jersey) **New Jersey could get first new nuclear plant in 35 years.** The governor's office could be paving the way for New Jersey's first

new nuclear power plant in 35 years. The energy master plan released Thursday says the government “will review siting, permitting, financing and waste disposal issues in evaluating the feasibility of bringing a new nuclear power plant to New Jersey.” The plan does not name any potential sites for a nuclear plant. The chief executive officer of Public Service Enterprise Group said, “I am convinced we can fit in an additional [nuclear] unit” at Hope Creek Generating Station in Salem County, already home to one nuclear reactor. Nuclear energy now provides half the electricity consumed in the state. The plan will be the subject of a series of public roundtable discussions with state and national energy experts. Public hearings will also be held statewide in 60 days and incorporated into the document, officials said. The final plan is expected to be submitted to the governor in September.

Source: <http://www.northjersey.com/news/njpolitics/17893719.html>

9. *April 17, Platts* – (Idaho) **DOE seeks public, industry input on next-generation nuclear plant.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on Thursday said it is seeking input from industry groups and interested parties on a prototype, low-emission nuclear plant at its Idaho National Laboratory. DOE issued a Request for Information and Expressions of Interest for a next-generation nuclear plant that aims to use high-temperature, gas-reactor technology to produce less greenhouse gas emissions than other reactors. Expressions of interest are due June 10. DOE said it would use the responses to develop a final strategy by this fall and to complete the design and construction of a plant prototype by 2021.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6861754.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *April 18, Strategy Page* – (National) **Smart bombs for moving targets.** The U.S. Air Force has received the first of 600 laser guidance kits for joint direct attack munitions (JDAM) bombs. The laser kit is easily installed on existing JDAM kits for 500-pound bombs. This makes the JDAM much more accurate – hitting within one to two meters, rather than ten. The laser guidance also enables the JDAM to hit a fast moving (up to about 68 miles an hour) target. The laser guidance homes in on laser light reflected off the target. Laser designators, which look like a large video camera on a tripod, have a range of three to six miles.

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htairw/articles/20080418.aspx>

11. *April 17, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Marines, Navy to buy Scan Eagle UAVs.** The U.S. Marine Corps and the Navy intend to buy a yet-to-be determined number of Scan Eagles, which are 40-pound vertical-takeoff unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) with electro-optical infrared sensors that can beam images from 5,000 feet, service officials said. The services may seek to arm the UAV, said a Marine Corps officer. “It takes up a minimum amount of desk space. It does not require a net. It just uses a rope,” said Insitu’s vice president of flight operations and training. “With no net and no

runway, you can operate from a field. You do not need a large expanse. This makes it ideal for shipborne operations.” The Marine Corps officer said, “It has been great for [improvised explosive device] detection, running up and down the roads and seeing things before the Marines get to them.”

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3483495&c=AME&s=AIR>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *April 18, Reuters* – (National; International) **Och-Ziff says lost money in scam involving Marubeni.** A Hong-Kong affiliate of U.S. hedge fund Och-Ziff Capital Management Group said Friday it had lost an undisclosed sum of money in a scam that also entangled U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers. The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday the U.S. fund operator had lost about \$77 million in the suspected scheme involving Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp. Lehman Brothers last month filed a lawsuit to claw back \$352 million from Marubeni. Lehman blames Marubeni staff for the swindle, which a source with direct knowledge of the matter said involved forged documents and an imposter at the trading company’s offices.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/fundsFundsNews/idUST24165720080418>

13. *April 18, Forbes* – (National) **Bank layoffs and national security.** The federal government views banks as America’s first line of defense to ensure that terrorists and criminals do not use the financial system to facilitate their activities. As a result, extensive anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist regulations have placed financial institutions in the trenches of the war against terror – and against any criminal activity involving money flows. The costs of these regulatory compliance programs have reached \$7 billion annually for financial institutions worldwide, and are rising. But these are tough times for banks. The specter of increased regulation is becoming all too real as institutions are still reeling from the losses they suffered during the past year’s credit crisis. Even before the current bank woes consumed the interest of the federal oversight agencies, financial institutions began to face tougher penalties in recent years for failure to implement adequate anti-money laundering programs. Over the past five years, for example, the U.S. Department of Justice has shifted its tactics toward pursuing criminal proceedings against institutions for Bank Secrecy Act violations, rather than pursuing them as civil cases. These are monetary and reputational costs that banks want to avoid and are ill-equipped to afford in today’s environment, but compliance is not optional.

Source: [http://www.forbes.com/opinions/2008/04/17/banks-layoffs-security-oped-cx\\_sja\\_0418banks.html](http://www.forbes.com/opinions/2008/04/17/banks-layoffs-security-oped-cx_sja_0418banks.html)

14. *April 17, Kansas City InfoZine* – (Missouri) **Two defendants plead guilty to wire fraud in \$13.1 million tax fraud scheme.** A United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri announced that two co-defendants pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to wire fraud for their roles in a multi-million dollar scheme that involved stealing the identities of hundreds of victims, primarily nursing home residents, then using the stolen identities to seek more than \$13.1 million in fraudulent tax refunds.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/27980/>

## **Transportation Sector**

15. *April 18, Foster's Daily Democrat* – (New Hampshire) **Memorial Bridge to close for 5 days starting Monday.** Starting Monday the Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, will be closed for five days for much needed repair work forcing commuters to seek alternate routes across the Piscataqua River. The 85-year-old lift bridge, which is at the top of the state's "red list," will be closed to vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian and some marine traffic starting at 7 a.m. April 21 until 7 a.m. Saturday, April 26. The project manager for the state Department of Transportation said the bridge requires immediate replacement of three cables connected to the counterweight, which will result in the temporary closing.

Source:

[http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080418/GJNEWS\\_01/96355653/-1/FOSNEWS](http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080418/GJNEWS_01/96355653/-1/FOSNEWS)

16. *April 17, KSDK 5 St. Louis* – (National) **TSA assumes control of checking travel documents.** The Transportation Security Administration continues to assume control of certain security checkpoints at airports across the country and at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. The TSA Federal Security Director for Lambert-St. Louis said TSA security officers had recently taken on the responsibility of checking travel documents for passengers at the airport in recent months. Security officers are conducting document checks at more than 400 airports and will soon be doing it at all airports nationwide. Congress authorized the TSA to assume the job in June 2007, taking over for airline-contracted employees, he said. He added that security officers recently began using black lights and magnifying loupes to detect phony travel documents at Lambert-St. Louis.

Source: [http://www.ksdk.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=144439](http://www.ksdk.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=144439)

17. *April 17, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **Metro puts train doors on manual.** Washington D.C. metro train operators have been instructed to manually open rail car doors after a malfunction in the automatic train control system caused doors to open on the wrong side four times in the past 100 days, officials said yesterday. There were no injuries to passengers. On average, doors open on Metro trains 216,000 times a day. The incidents, which occurred on the Red and Orange lines, accounted for four in about 22 million times that train doors opened, he said. The problems did not appear to be concentrated on any particular series of the six types of car in the system's fleet, he said. Since Monday, operators have been opening and closing the doors manually. Officials said the change will not degrade service; in fact, it could mean fewer instances in which riders have to get off trains which are then taken out of service because of door problems. The official said the malfunction was triggered by electromagnetic interference caused by ongoing upgrades to power substations and other related infrastructure. Metro needs the upgrades to provide electricity to operate more eight-car trains.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp->

[dyn/content/article/2008/04/16/AR2008041603245.html](http://dyn/content/article/2008/04/16/AR2008041603245.html)

18. *April 17, Press-Telegram* – (California) **Freeways close for hours after bomb scare.** A bomb scare forced the closings of the San Gabriel River (605) and Golden State (5) freeways in California for two hours on Thursday afternoon, authorities said. California Highway Patrol (CHP) received an anonymous phone call at 12:52 p.m. that informed them a suspicious package was placed at the 605 and 5 interchange, a CHP officer said. The CHP closed both sides of the 605 and 5 at approximately 1 p.m. “The big thing is that it shut down two major highways,” the official said. Police did not find any suspicious device, he said.

Source: [http://www.presstelegram.com/breakingnews/ci\\_8962166](http://www.presstelegram.com/breakingnews/ci_8962166)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

19. *April 18, FoodNavigator* – (International) **EFSA calls for caution on bacterial resistance.** The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) says that the growing use of antimicrobial agents in food could be damaging human resistance to bacteria and other microbes. In a report published on Thursday by EFSA’s panel on biological hazards, the agency suggests that more needs to be done to ensure that the food we eat does not become a “carrier” for antimicrobial-resistant agents which could leave the body open to health risks. Resistance to antibacterials in animals is rising, meaning that the risk of animal-based food becoming contaminated is higher. At the same time, antimicrobials are also becoming less effective in fighting human infections.

Source: <http://www.foodnavigator.com/news/ng.asp?n=84762-efsa-antimicrobial-resistance-food-safety>

20. *April 18, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Meat inspectors can’t keep up, official says.** The improper slaughter of so-called downer cows that led to the nation’s largest beef recall was not an isolated incident, a union official representing U.S. Agriculture Department meat inspectors told a House panel. The department’s meat-inspection agency is so understaffed that some inspectors are assigned to as many as 24 plants or facilities in a geographic region too large to traverse for the required inspections, the chairman of the National Joint Council of Food Inspection Local Unions said. A union survey last year found that 75 percent of inspectors did not visit their plants daily, as required, and when they did, the processing lines often moved so quickly that contamination was difficult to detect.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120848231675825093.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120848231675825093.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

21. *April 18, Baltimore Sun* – (National) **Meat inspection is adequate, USDA official tells Congress.** The U.S. presidential administration Thursday resisted calls from Congress to add more inspectors and new technologies to oversee slaughterhouses, saying neither was necessary to do the job adequately. The exchange, during a hearing before a House subcommittee, reflected continuing fallout from the nation's largest beef recall, which occurred this year. The undersecretary for food safety told committee members that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had enough food inspectors after hiring 194 in 2007. Videotaping meat plant operations, another suggestion from Congress, would be costly and difficult to implement, he added.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-beef18apr18,1,6164154.story>
22. *April 17, Associated Press* – (National) **Union head claims USDA tried to intimidate employees.** The head of the union that represents 6,000 federal food inspectors told a congressional committee Thursday that the Agriculture Department tried to intimidate him and other employees who reported violations of regulations, an allegation denied by the agency. He said that following a mad cow disease scare in 2003, he told superiors that new food safety regulations for slaughtered cattle were not being uniformly enforced. He said he was told to drop the matter, and when he did not, he was grilled by department officials and then placed on disciplinary investigative status. Though eventually exonerated, he said the incident "has caused a chilling effect on others within my bargaining unit to come forward and stand up when agency management is wrong." He said that supervisors tell workers to "let the system work" rather than cite slaughterhouses for violations.  
Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gjgIDJ5Z2xZSLp6TUi-kRcCFXmPgD903T9000>

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## **Water Sector**

23. *April 18, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **House OKs funding for water tests.** The U.S. House of Representatives has voted to reauthorize a law that pays for water monitoring at recreational sites nationwide, including beaches in San Diego County. If the Senate also approves the measure, the Beaches Environmental and Coastal Health Act would be extended through 2012. The House also approved an amendment dealing with testing for bacterial contamination of water. The legislation requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct studies aimed at replacing the standard test, which takes up to 72 hours to yield results, with a faster and more high-tech method.  
Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080418-9999-1m18beaches.html>
24. *April 18, Press & Sun-Bulletin* – (New York) **Water plan raises hopes in Nichols.** In New York, the 220 customers served by United Water Nichols would be without drinking water if something happened to their well. "All this time, the clock's been ticking because this is the only source of water, potable water, for our customers in

Nichols,” said the manager of United Water. A plan to drill a new well in Nichols has received approval from the county and village planning boards and awaits only permits from the state departments of environmental conservation and health.

Source:

<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080418/NEWS01/804180326/1054/COMMUN01>

25. *April 18, Saginaw News and Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Dioxin plan looks to preserve, restore natural resources in Saginaw Valley.** State and federal environmental leaders have spent two years creating a guide they hope will heal damage to mid-Michigan’s natural resources. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative outlined a broad plan of attack Thursday. Officials are calling the initiative the Tittabawassee River System Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan, although the scope includes the Saginaw River and floodplain, and Saginaw Bay regions affected by decades-old chemical purges at the Dow Chemical Co. plant in Midland. The plan will involve studying and restoring natural resources. Scientists will look at how various chemicals – including dioxin, arsenic, lead, and mercury – have affected the environment.

Source:

[http://www.mlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2008/04/dioxin\\_plan\\_looks\\_to\\_preserve.html](http://www.mlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2008/04/dioxin_plan_looks_to_preserve.html)

26. *April 17, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Border-area beaches are reopened.** San Diego County health officials yesterday reopened border-area beaches that were closed for 137 days because of sewage-contaminated runoff. Measurements taken at the mouth of the Tijuana River indicated the water was safe for recreational use, and the closure signs in place since late November were removed. The beaches were closed after tests indicated elevated levels of bacteria following a rainstorm. Contaminated sewage flows continued to enter the estuary through late March, and bacterial levels exceeded state standards until yesterday.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080417-9999-1m17sewage.html>

27. *April 17, Hastings Star-Gazette* – (Minnesota) **Second phase of water study to begin.** Almost five years after the first phase of the Hastings Area Nitrate Study was completed by Dakota County, Minnesota, the second phase will begin. The first phase was conducted from 1999 to 2003 to determine the extent and sources of nitrate contamination in wells in the city of Hastings and the surrounding areas. One quarter of the private wells tested as part of the study exceeded the drinking water standard for nitrates. Nitrates can come from a variety of sources, but in the Hastings study, they were found to be associated with row crop agriculture. The Vermillion River was found to play a role in transporting contaminated water from its upper reaches to the lower reaches. This year as part of the same study, testing will be done of the wells for pesticides and pesticide degradants to see how conditions may have changed. Also, the county will be testing other wells for organic wastewater compounds, including caffeine and cleaning compounds.

Source:

[http://www.hastingsstargazette.com/articles/index.cfm?id=17478&section=news&freebie\\_check&CFID=27167391&CFTOKEN=21873482&jsessionid=883048ed741613331728](http://www.hastingsstargazette.com/articles/index.cfm?id=17478&section=news&freebie_check&CFID=27167391&CFTOKEN=21873482&jsessionid=883048ed741613331728)

28. *April 17, Associated Press* – (National) **Carolinas' waterway named most endangered in U.S.** American Rivers put the Catawba-Watauga River ahead of nine others on the group's top ten list for 2008. The designation is the latest problem for the 300-mile river, which is also the focus of a legal fight between the Carolinas that has made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Rivers from Maine to Oregon made the list this year, with Maine's Allagash Wilderness Waterway listed as number eight. The organization chooses from nominations made by environmental and river advocacy groups and bases the selections on the significance of a river as a resource, the level of the threat, and pending decisions that could affect it in the next year. The most-threatened rivers this year are endangered by proposed construction projects, outdated management plans, and faulty ideas to pull water from them, the report said.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/2008/04/17/carolinas\\_waterway\\_named\\_most\\_endangered\\_in\\_us/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/2008/04/17/carolinas_waterway_named_most_endangered_in_us/)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

29. *April 18, eFluxMedia* – (National) **Online storage of medical records raises privacy issues.** Following Microsoft's and Google's intentions to enter the medical field with programs designed to store medical records, two leading researchers point that such services do not fall under federal privacy laws. The researchers, both physicians at Children's Hospital Boston, the primary pediatric teaching hospital of the Harvard Medical School, say in an article published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine that they are against the idea of huge companies merging together to host millions of confidential medical files. They are concerned that neither Google nor Microsoft has privacy policy measures that govern the confidentiality of a person's medical information, meaning that it is quite possible for files to be accessed by people who have nothing to do with them.

Source:

[http://www.efluxmedia.com/news/Online\\_Storage\\_of\\_Medical\\_Records\\_Raises\\_Privacy\\_Issues\\_16524.html](http://www.efluxmedia.com/news/Online_Storage_of_Medical_Records_Raises_Privacy_Issues_16524.html)

30. *April 18, Reuters* – (International) **S. Korea probes three new suspected bird flu cases.** South Korea said on Friday it was investigating three new reports of suspected bird flu and sent more soldiers to cull poultry as the worst outbreak in four years spread. The Farm Ministry said there were two more suspected cases at poultry farms in North and South Jeolla provinces, some 200 miles south of Seoul, where the first bird flu recurrence for a year was reported this month. It also said a suspected case had been reported at a duck farm in Gongju in South Chungcheong province, south of Seoul, suggesting the virus is spreading at its fastest rate since the country reported its first case

in 2003. South Korea has confirmed 15 cases of the deadly H5N1 strain in just two weeks.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/africaCrisis/idUSPEK279612>

31. *April 18, News Inferno* – (National) **Pork workers disease said to be new illness.**

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic say an illness seen in pork industry workers is likely a new disease. While the pork workers disease is similar to some known conditions, it is not an exact match to any; neither is its cause. Apparently, the seemingly new illness is a result of inhaling microscopic flecks of pig brain. Eighteen pork plant workers in Minnesota, at least five in Indiana, and one in Nebraska have come down with a mysterious neurological condition they seem to have contracted while removing brains from slaughtered pigs, according to U.S. researchers and health officials. The new disorder causes a range of symptoms; patients complain of burning sensations, numbness, and weakness in the arms and legs. For some, walking is difficult and work impossible and, while symptoms have slowly lessened in severity in some, it has not completely disappeared in any of the patients. So far, no infectious agent has been found that could explain the illness.

Source: <http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/2931>

32. *April 18, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Wal-Mart recalls charm key chains due to risk of lead exposure.**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Wal-Mart announced a voluntary recall of about 12,000 “Hip Charm” key chains. The charms on the key chain can contain high levels of lead, which is toxic if ingested and can cause adverse health effects. The Illinois attorney general informed Wal-Mart and CPSC on April 16 that the key chain was found in the home of a nine-month-old child who was discovered to have high blood-levels of lead. The item was manufactured in China and sold at Wal-Mart stores nationwide from April 2005 through April 2008.

Source: <http://www.streetinsider.com/Press+Releases/Wal-Mart+Recalls+Charm+Key+Chains+Due+to+Risk+of+Lead+Exposure/3556844.html>

33. *April 18, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* – (National) **CDC states West Nile virus transmission has already begun for 2008.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that it has already received reports of West Nile virus for this season. So far in 2008, as of early April, human cases of West Nile have been reported in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arizona. Animal cases of West Nile have been reported in Alabama and California. This is just the beginning of mosquito season for many places, and the number of cases will rise as warmer weather spreads across the nation. West Nile is a serious infection transmitted by mosquitoes and affects humans and animals. West Nile symptoms include stiff neck, fever, convulsions, visual disturbances, and potentially permanent neurological damage. If the virus leads to meningitis or encephalitis, death is possible.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>

## **Government Facilities Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

34. *April 17, Wilmette Life* – (Illinois) **Civilian team prepared for emergencies.** 22 residents of Wilmette, Illinois, just completed a disaster response training program which puts them in a key support role for large-scale emergencies. Members of Wilmette's first Community Emergency Response Team (green vests) join their full-time professional counterparts at the Wilmette Fire Department. The program trains civilian volunteers to be able to help first responders in large-scale emergencies, such as the widespread power outages and flooding that hit the area last August. The Community Emergency Response Team program graduated its first class of trainees in the village, a group of volunteers from Wilmette's three Rotary clubs. The program, developed in California in the 1980s by the Los Angeles Fire Department, gives volunteers a basic level of training to help them stay safe and back up police and fire when their hands are full.

Source: <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/wilmette/lifestyles/currents/897650,wi-cert-041708-s1.article>

35. *April 18, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **911 callers get nowhere during 'catastrophic failure' in Seminole County.** Seminole County residents who called the emergency system Thursday morning got a ringing phone, or silence, or a message saying 911 was not available. About 300 calls, in 102 separate incidents, did not get through when the 911 system underwent what a county spokeswoman called "a catastrophic failure." Officials were still investigating the cause late Thursday afternoon. The system failed at 8:30 a.m. It took 40 minutes to reroute calls to Orange County and Lake Mary. The system was fixed at about 11 a.m. Seminole County found callers later in the day with AT&T's help. Seminole County deputies either visited in person or followed up by phone. Officials said none of the missed calls resulted in death or serious injury.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/seminole/orl-08apr18,0,3306764.story>

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## **Information Technology**

36. *April 18, IDG News Service* – (National) **Chinese blogs detail zero-day flaw in Microsoft Works.** Chinese-language blogs are detailing a zero-day vulnerability in Microsoft Works, the company's lower-end office productivity suite, according to security vendor McAfee. The vulnerability is within an ActiveX control for the Works' Image Server, a McAfee analyst wrote. A PC would need to visit a Web site engineered to exploit the flaw. A zero-day flaw is a software vulnerability that has become public knowledge but for which no patch is available. It is particularly dangerous since users

are exposed from day zero until the day a vendor prepares a patch and notifies users it is ready. Proof-of-concept code was posted on a Chinese blog showing how the problem could cause Windows to crash. Then, a few hours later, a working exploit appeared, which could allow malicious code to run on a machine.

Source:

[http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/144803/chinese\\_blogs\\_detail\\_zero\\_day\\_flaw\\_in\\_microsoft\\_works.html](http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/144803/chinese_blogs_detail_zero_day_flaw_in_microsoft_works.html)

37. *April 18, ITProPortal* – (Oklahoma) **Oklahoma State leaks tens of thousands of social security numbers.** Residents of Oklahoma were told this week that tens of thousands of their names, social security numbers, and allied data were effectively available on the Web for around three years. The source of the problem, says a software security researcher with Fortify Software, is poor coding on the state's Department of Corrections Web site. "This is a classic SQL injection vulnerability," he said, adding that, in this case, the security lapse could easily have been caught with a simple code review. Had some form of automated analysis been part of the release procedure for this Web site, the incident could have been avoided, he said. According to newswire reports, anyone with a basic knowledge of SQL programming could interpret the URL and other data returned by the Oklahoma DoC Web site. Then, by the simple process of amending the long URLs returned by the site, they could retrieve tens of thousands of social security numbers and their allied data from the site.

Source: <http://www.security.itproportal.com/articles/2008/04/18/oklahoma-state-leaks-tens-thousands-social-security-numbers/>

38. *April 17, Secunia* – (National) **Mozilla Firefox Javascript Garbage Collector vulnerability.** A vulnerability has been reported in Mozilla Firefox, which can potentially be exploited to compromise a user's system. The vulnerability is caused due to an error in the Javascript Garbage Collector and can be exploited to cause a memory corruption via specially crafted Javascript code. Successful exploitation may allow execution of arbitrary code. The vulnerability is reported in version 2.0.0.13. Prior versions may also be affected.

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/29787/>

### 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

39. *April 18, International Herald Tribune* – (International) **Era of in-flight mobile phone use begins in Europe.** Relatively unobtrusive data calls, like mobile e-mail and messaging, have been available for a while on airlines including Emirates, Qantas,

JetBlue, Virgin America, and Alaska Airlines. But last month, Emirates became the first airline to enable in-flight mobile voice services, on an Airbus A340 from Dubai to Casablanca. On April 2, Air France began offering voice calls on one of its jets on a trial basis, and BMI of Britain and TAP of Portugal plan to do the same. Although U.S. airlines have shunned the service, Ryanair, Europe's largest low-cost airline, is so confident mobile phoning will prove popular that it plans to start offering it in June without even bothering with a trial. With the Air France trial, passengers only learn about the possibility of using their phone once they are on the plane. An announcement refers them to an instruction card in the seat pocket. They are told to switch off their phones during take-off and landing – and a special icon has been added next to the seatbelt sign to indicate when phones can be turned on. But there are still a number of hurdles to be overcome. The technology, which lets users make and receive calls through a satellite-linked, on-board base station, delivers a patchy quality that keeps most in-flight calls short and tinny. So far, only six passengers on any given flight can get a signal at the same time, although that is due to be expanded to 12. And then there are the roaming charges of as much as \$4.80 per minute.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/04/18/business/cell.php>

40. *April 18, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **EBay may consider selling Skype phone division.** EBay Inc. said Thursday that it would consider selling its Skype telephone division if it could not be integrated with other units. EBay will review Skype this year, and if its chief executive officer determines the unit does not help the auction and PayPal payment system, it will be reassessed and may be sold, an EBay spokesman said. The auctioneer bought Skype, which enables users to make calls over the Internet, for \$2.6 billion in 2005 with the intent of using it to facilitate the sale and purchase of goods online. The company said last year that the phone service had not lived up to those expectations. In October, EBay wrote off \$1.39 billion for Skype. Skype has 309 million registered users.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-skype18apr18,1,7995341.story>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

41. *April 18, Associated Press* – (New York) **Report: NYC Freedom Tower plans found in trash.** A homeless man has come forward with two sets of confidential ground zero blueprints that he says were dumped in a Lower Manhattan trash can. The man brought the Freedom Tower plans to the New York Post, which says the 150-page schematic is marked: "Secure Document — Confidential." The documents are dated October 5, 2007. They contain plans for each floor, the thickness of the concrete-core wall, and the location of air ducts, elevators, electrical systems and support columns. The agency that owns the World Trade Center site, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, calls it a serious security lapse. A spokeswoman says mishandling the blueprints would be "cause for serious disciplinary action."

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080418/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/attacks\\_redevelopment;\\_ylt=Aspz2RHDMUVmK0PXJjrBLjas0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080418/ap_on_re_us/attacks_redevelopment;_ylt=Aspz2RHDMUVmK0PXJjrBLjas0NUE)

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Dams Sector**

42. *April 17, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **ASCE urges Corps to tell residents of continuing flooding risk.** Despite ongoing levee improvements, the New Orleans area still faces a life-threatening risk of flooding from hurricanes, and it is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to make that risk clear to the public, an American Society of Civil Engineers panel said. The panel also recommended that the Corps use its bully pulpit to ensure that local evacuation and emergency planning equals or exceeds similar planning elsewhere in the nation. The engineering group has been conducting a peer review of the Corps-sponsored forensic study of the causes of levee failures during Hurricane Katrina, and its letter was part of its review of that study's chapter on risk.

Source:

[http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/04/corps\\_told\\_to\\_make\\_risk\\_clear.html](http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/04/corps_told_to_make_risk_clear.html)

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