



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 April 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
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- The Associated Press reports Santa Barbara County inspectors have ordered a Greka Oil & Gas Co. facility near Santa Maria, California, to stop work after finding a possibly dangerous leak. (See item [3](#))
- According to the Globe and Mail, two Toronto-area executives face charges of fraud and conspiracy for allegedly seeking to defraud the U.S. military of up to \$11 million on a contract for night-vision goggles. (See item [10](#))

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 22, Bloomberg* – (International) **Oil rises to record above \$118 on U.K. strike, Nigeria supply.** Crude oil rose to a record above \$118 a barrel on concern that a labor dispute in the U.K. and disruptions in Nigeria may crimp supply. Crude oil for May delivery rose as much as 57 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$118.05 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.
Source:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=a1UupMQpYNYo&refer=energy>
2. *April 22, Washington Post* – (National) **State environmental laws drive power**

producers to renewable resources. 25 states have adopted laws that require electric utilities to use more renewable resources, and that has sent utilities scrambling to line up wind, solar, and biomass projects across the country. Wind power accounted for 30 percent of all new U.S. generating capacity last year, according to the American Wind Energy Association. Most state laws carry stiff financial penalties for firms that fail to comply. According to a study by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, state renewable-electricity standards will lead to the addition of 60 gigawatts of renewable capacity by 2025, equal to 4.7 percent of projected U.S. generation. Some executives lament the lack of a national policy because the patchwork of state regulations pushes investment away from some of the most economical wind and solar projects. In California, the president of Semptra Energy said a federal standard might allow utilities to link up with projects outside the state, including wind power in Texas or Wyoming, where wind blows stronger and steadier.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24250436>

3. *April 22, Associated Press* – (California) **Leak shuts Greka Oil facility near Santa Maria.** Santa Barbara County inspectors have ordered a Greka Oil & Gas Co. facility near Santa Maria to stop work after finding a possibly dangerous leak. A county fire official said inspectors were at the site to inspect a leaking line when they found water and crude oil coming from another pipe. He said enough water and oil had leaked that the entire hillside could collapse. An Environmental Protection Agency cleanup crew that had been working below the hillside was withdrawn.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-greka22apr22,1,5480831.story>
4. *April 22, TheNewsTribune.com* – (Washington) **Puget Sound Energy to pay \$471,900 over 2006 oil spill.** Puget Sound Energy officials have agreed to pay the federal government \$471,900 because of a November 2006 oil spill near Crystal Mountain ski area. The proposed settlement between the utility and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was filed April 11 in U.S. District Court in Tacoma. EPA officials made a public announcement Monday. On November 3, 2006, an aboveground tank at an emergency generator near the ski area overflowed, dumping 18,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The accident resulted in a \$366,000 state penalty for a related violation of state law. State officials announced that fine last week.
Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/story/341317.html>
5. *April 22, Peak Energy* – (International) **Storing energy using ammonia.** South Australian company Wizard Power is putting together a solar concentrator dish and a closed loop thermochemical energy storage system using ammonia. Wizard plans to start construction of a demonstration plant in October and to begin generating power from July 2009. Most solar thermal projects use molten salt or water to store energy in the form of heat. According to the Australian National University, advantages of this energy storage mechanism using ammonia include the following: a high energy storage density by volume and mass; the reactions are easy to control and to reverse and there are no unwanted side reactions; all constituents involved are environmentally benign; and all reactants for transport and handling are in the fluid phase, which provides a convenient means of energy transport without thermal loss.

Source: <http://peakenergy.blogspot.com/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to Report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *April 22, Washington Times* – (National) **Court to look at tariff limits.** The Supreme Court decided Monday to hear a case that could determine if Eurodif – a European consortium of government-subsidized companies that enrich uranium for use in nuclear reactors – violated federal anti-dumping laws by selling subsidized uranium in the U.S. The U.S. government accuses Eurodif of sidestepping U.S. law by classifying the enrichment process as a service that is exempt from tariffs and then selling the nuclear material at reduced prices in the U.S. The solicitor general's lawsuit is joined in a separate appeal by a group of U.S. energy corporations. They include USEC, Dominion Resources, Duke Energy, Entergy, and PPL Corp. If the energy companies lose this case, USEC said it would hurt the company's ability to continue funding its American Centrifuge Plant at Piketon, Ohio, and its gaseous diffusion plant at Paducah, Kentucky. Company officials said they also would have more difficulty competing in international markets. The Supreme Court scheduled arguments in the case for its next term, which begins in October. A ruling is likely in late 2008 or early 2009.

Source:

<http://washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080422/BUSINESS/387303553/1006>

7. *April 22, Mid-Hudson News* – (New York) **IP2 back online.** The Indian Point Unit 2 nuclear power plant is back up and running. Entergy operators placed it back into service at 6 a.m. after it was manually shut down Monday when the main turbine generator erroneously signaled that it had reduced speed. Operations and maintenance teams replaced the faulty circuit. Indian Point's Unit 2 is currently operating at 28 percent power and will continue power ascension until full power is achieved.

Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/April08/22/IP2_online-22Apr08.htm

8. *April 22, Longview Daily News* – (Idaho; Washington) **Arrival of toxic sand delayed until Thursday.** A ship unloading containers of sand contaminated with hazardous depleted uranium through the Port of Longview in Washington will not arrive until Thursday, the port's executive director said Monday. Once the ship arrives, longshoremen will take two to three days to unload the 6,700 tons of sand in 306 containers, said a spokesman for American Ecology, the company shipping the material. The containers will be loaded by train to a toxic waste dump site in Idaho in two waves. All the material will be out of Longview within 20 to 30 days, he said.

Source:

http://www.tdn.com/articles/2008/04/22/area_news/doc480d42f04d6f4740047164.txt

9. *April 22, San Luis Obispo Tribune* – (California) **Diablo muzzles workers concerned about plant safety, SLO group alleges.** San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace has filed a complaint with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), alleging that workers at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant face possible retaliation if they raise safety concerns. In an April 14 letter to the NRC, the group cites one incident in which a worker filed a complaint document called a differing professional opinion during a recent refueling outage for steam generator replacement. An investigation validated most of the worker's concerns, but he received a downgraded performance evaluation because he was not a team player. The letter states the incident, and those similar to it, has caused a chilling effect in which workers fear raising safety concerns out of fear of retaliation. An unspecified number of power plant employees contacted the group after they became frustrated with the internal complaint resolution process at the plant, a group member said. The NRC says it will investigate.

Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/story/339145.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *April 22, Globe and Mail* – (National) **Ontario executives charged with defrauding U.S. military.** Two Toronto-area executives at the helm of an optical devices company face charges of fraud and conspiracy for allegedly seeking to defraud the U.S. military of up to \$11 million on a contract for night-vision goggles destined for Iraq, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Monday. After a grand-jury indictment, the chief executive officer of Newcon Optik Ltd. and the company's former vice-president were charged with money laundering as well as two counts of wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. The core of the accusation is that they sought to defraud the U.S. Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) by bribing a competitor to pull its bid for supplying a shipment of night-vision equipment.

Source:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080422.OPTIK22/TPStory/TPInternational/America/>

11. *April 21, Strategy Page* – (National) **The HMMWV lives.** Although the U.S. has 5,200 mine resistant ambush protected vehicles and 19,000 HMMWV (hummer) vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan, and is developing a hummer replacement, there is still demand for new hummers. The U.S. Army just ordered another 5,526 at about \$144,000 each. There are over twenty different versions of the hummer in this order, which will be delivered by the end of next year. Even though the Army and Marines are refurbishing thousands of hummers, wear and tear (mostly) and combat damage have completely destroyed enough vehicles to require new ones. In addition, transfers of thousands of used HMMWVs to Iraqi and Afghan security forces also have to be replaced.

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htarm/articles/20080421.aspx>

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *April 22, Washington Post* – (National) **Fraudsters prey on small firms looking for loans.** Small businesses looking for funding are finding themselves the unwitting victims of fraud. More small firms are turning to the Internet to find loans and that has been a problem, said the president and CEO of the Washington chapter of the Better Business Bureau (BBB). Fraudsters have been setting up professional-looking Web sites to attract loan candidates, only to ask them for upfront fees to process the loan or for other reasons. “The big problem is that most consumers and businesses don’t understand that it’s against the law for a lender to charge a fee in advance of actually providing the loan,” he said. Alleged lenders are asking for fees ranging from \$1,000 to several thousand dollars, and, in many cases, they simply vanish after receiving those fees.
Source: http://blog.washingtonpost.com/small-business/2008/04/fraudsters_preay_on_small_firms.html
13. *April 21, KPVI 6 Pocatello* – (Idaho) **Better Business Bureau warns of two latest scams.** The Better Business Bureau (BBB) in Idaho Falls says it is seeing more attempted scams than ever, and is warning people of two recent scams. A BBB employee has received e-mails claiming to be from the Scenic Falls Federal Credit Union. The e-mail states a “customer security update” that an account has been “locked.” Do not provide any personal information, and do not click on the link because it could damage your computer system. Anyone who is receiving scam e-mails which claim to be from the Scenic Falls Federal Credit Union is asked to call the credit union.
Source: <http://www.kpvi.com/Global/story.asp?S=8205254>
14. *April 21, Arizona Republic* – (National) **Check with the BBB – before you start.** A surge in consumer complaints speaks to both the Better Business Bureau’s success and to the challenges the organization faces in an increasingly wired world. On one level, the increase shows awareness of the bureau’s existence is growing. The jump also highlights the big hurdle local and national leaders say the organization faces: Getting consumers to think of the BBB as not just the place to complain about unsatisfactory business transactions, but as a resource to use *before* doing business with a company. The BBB may not always be able to help consumers to their satisfaction once they encounter a problem. Organization leaders say people commonly mistake the BBB for a regulatory agency that has the power to fine companies or take legal action against a business. While the organization does communicate regularly with the Attorney General’s Office and state licensing boards, it does not fine or sue businesses accused of wrongdoing. Consumers could better protect themselves against unsavory business experiences if they checked the BBB’s records prior to a transaction, said the president and chief executive officer of the BBB of Central, Northern and Western Arizona. With the proliferation of Web sites and consumer-oriented blogs, people have a growing number of options for researching and airing complaints about a business or product.
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/04/21/20080421biz-bbb0420-ON.html>

Transportation Sector

15. *April 22, USA Today* – (National) **Fingerprinting plan could be costly to airlines.**

Airlines could spend up to \$3.2 billion over 10 years to collect fingerprints from foreign travelers heading out of the country, according to a government proposal to be issued today. Officials in the airline industry say the government — not the airlines — should pay for the new program. The cost “is above and beyond our biggest nightmare,” says an official with the International Air Transport Association (IATA). “This is literally the most expensive security program in the history of aviation.” Airlines and others will have 60 days to comment before a final requirement is issued. More than 80 airlines at 73 airports would have to put systems in place. The prints will have to be transmitted to Homeland Security within 24 hours, says the official who runs the US-VISIT fingerprint program, so that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents can begin to track down visitors who apparently did not leave. Airlines say they cannot afford to buy the equipment and train their employees to do the government’s work, especially at a time when they are suffering from record oil prices. The Travel Industry Association supports fingerprinting but says airlines cannot pay.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-04-21-fingerprints_N.htm

16. *April 22, Dallas Morning News* – (National) **FAA inspectors given May 30 deadline on American Airlines.**

Federal Aviation Administration inspectors overseeing American Airlines have been given until May 30 to complete 19 overdue inspections of the carrier, the latest sign that regulators are tightening supervision after lax oversight of Southwest Airlines was exposed. The inspectors will be looking at American’s manuals and programs to make sure they comply with federal regulations, not doing hands-on inspections of aircraft. An American Airlines spokesman said the work mostly looks at “systems and paperwork” and would not interfere with the carrier’s operations. Such “safety attribute inspections” of manuals and programs are required to be done every five years. Some critics have said recently that inspectors spend too much time on paperwork audits instead of visually checking aircraft maintenance procedures.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/042208dnbusfaa.391dbbf.html>

17. *April 22, NewsOK.com* – (Oklahoma) **Brief security incident delays 700 passengers at Will Rogers.**

The Transportation Security Administration had to re-screen nearly 700 travelers Monday because of a security breach at Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City. The security breach was caused when someone found what was thought to be a prohibited item in a restroom, a TSA regional spokeswoman said. The TSA did not elaborate on what the item was. The official said the item belonged to a law enforcement officer who was on an incoming flight and was permitted to fly armed. The breach, which was cleared by 4:10 p.m., resulted in four flight delays and 669 passengers going through security a second time, she said.

Source: <http://newsok.com/brief-security-incident-delays-700-passengers-at-will-rogers/article/3233151/>

18. *April 21, Guardian* – (National) **Continental transatlantic flights run low on fuel.** Continental Airlines flights between Britain and the U.S. are under scrutiny by U.S. pilots, politicians and regulators over figures showing the airline's planes ran low on fuel while approaching New York on 96 occasions last year. The number of "minimum fuel" declarations by Continental pilots leapt five-fold at Newark airport over the past two years, prompting criticism over the carrier's use of relatively small planes for transatlantic routes. The carrier uses single-aisle Boeing 757 jets, typically carrying 175 passengers. In 1990, a flight operated by Colombia's Avianca ran out of fuel while landing at Kennedy airport and crashed, killing 73 people. Problems can arise when flights face headwinds over the Atlantic or when they are rerouted to avoid bad weather. Occasionally, pilots opt to touch down in eastern Canada to pick up extra fuel - but according to the U.S. department of transportation, Continental warned crew this could hit them personally in the pocket. According to Boeing, the planes have a range of 3,900 nautical miles which, in normal conditions, is comfortably above the 3,014 nautical miles for an average flight between London and New York. But holding patterns at airports add to fuel burn and certain European destinations are more of a stretch - a flight from Barcelona to Newark is 3,338 nautical miles and the U.S. government revealed that Continental's pilots on this route declared minimum fuel 23 times last year. On average, the flights that ran low had 64 minutes' fuel left - exceeding the statutory reserve level of 45 minutes.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/apr/21/theairlineindustry.useconomy>

19. *April 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Airport screeners to get more security training.** Airport screeners are about to get new security training designed to help them think creatively about possible threats. The screeners still will be vigilant for someone trying to bring a gun on a plane, but they also want to look for more offbeat threats, said the Transportation Security Administration Administrator. Part of the preparation is a new 12-hour training course that all 43,000 screeners across the country will take. Currently screeners get four hours of retraining each week. But this new course includes briefings from field intelligence officials who will discuss the latest threats and trends. Screeners will also learn about new explosive devices and will be shown how they look on the screen of an X-ray machine, as well as what they look like up close. The third part of the training includes instructions on how to deal with passengers in a way that creates a calm environment. In addition, screeners will get redesigned uniforms and police-style metal badges, the agency said. Screeners at Baltimore Washington International Airport will be the first to undergo the new training.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24205807/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *April 22, NewsHerald.com* – (Florida) **Powder-laced letter threatens judge.** In Florida, a threatening letter with a mysterious white powder prompted deputies to seal off an office at the Washington County Courthouse on Monday. When the mail arrived late in morning, it contained a letter purportedly from a convicted murderer to a circuit judge. The envelope contained a letter signed by the murderer threatening the judge's life and

announcing that the envelope contained a deadly white powder. The employee who opened the envelope immediately contacted law enforcement, and the envelope was contained by the Sheriff's Office and the room was sealed off. A Bay County hazmat team took samples of the substance. Results are expected in a couple of days, according to a news release from the Sheriff's Office.

Source: <http://www.newsherald.com/headlines/article.display.php?id=1665>

21. *April 22, WUPW 36 Toledo* – (Ohio) **Hazmat analyzing suspicious substance.**

Toledo's hazardous materials team is currently analyzing a letter after two people were hospitalized after opening it Monday at their residence. Firefighters sealed up the letter, but at first glance it did not appear to have any toxic substance on it. The letter is in a secure location and will be analyzed to see if it caused the couple's sickness.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxt Toledo.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=6358522&version=9&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *April 21, New York Sun* – (National) **Food rationing confronts breadbasket of the world.**

The Costco Warehouse in Mountain View, California, usually sells four or five varieties of rice, but only about half a pallet of Indian-grown Basmati rice was left in stock. A 20-pound bag was selling for \$15.99. Most Costco members were being allowed to buy only one bag of rice. Shoppers said the limits had been in place for a few days, and that rice supplies had been spotty for a few weeks. A store manager referred questions to officials at Costco headquarters near Seattle, who did not return calls or e-mail messages yesterday. An employee at the Costco store in Queens said there were no restrictions on rice buying, but limits were being imposed on purchases of oil and flour. Internet postings attributed some of the shortage at the retail level to bakery owners who flocked to warehouse stores when the price of flour from commercial suppliers doubled. Spot shortages seem to be most frequent in the Northeast and all the way along the West Coast. One blogger attributed local shortages to supply chain changes. An anonymous high-tech professional writing on an investment Web site, Seeking Alpha, said he recently bought ten 50-pound bags of rice at Costco. "I am concerned that when the news of rice shortage spreads, there will be panic buying and the shelves will be empty in no time. I do not intend to cause a panic, and I am not speculating on rice to make profit. I am just hoarding some for my own consumption," he wrote.

Source: <http://nysun.com/news/food-rationing-confronts-breadbasket-world>

23. *April 21, Agriculture Online* – (National) **USDA: Little progress made with sluggish corn planting.**

Not much progress has been made in getting the 2008 corn crop in the ground in the last week, according to Monday's Crop Progress report by the U.S. Agriculture Department's National Agricultural Statistics Service. As of Sunday, four percent of the country's corn crop has been planted. This doubles last week's two percent progress mark, but is lagging significantly behind the average pace. Typically, 17 percent of the nation's corn crop has been planted by this week. The most significant

planting delays are in the mid-South and southern Corn Belt, according to Monday's report. In Tennessee, normal progress has 64 percent of the state's corn in the ground by this time, but as of Sunday, only 17 percent of Tennessee corn is planted. A similar story is developing in Missouri, where only four percent of the corn crop is planted compared to the average progress level of 53 percent by this week.

Source:

<http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/1208810551586.xml>

24. *April 20, Scotland on Sunday* – (International) **'Perfect storm' food crisis grips globe.** An economist and special adviser to the United Nations secretary general told Scotland on Sunday that the current food crisis is the "worst of its kind in more than 30 years." "It's a big deal and it's obviously threatening a lot of governments. There are a number of governments on the ropes, and I think there's more political fallout to come," he said. Indeed, as it hits developing nations, the spike in commodity prices has pitted the world's poorer south against the relatively wealthy north, adding to demands for reform of rich nations' farm and environmental policies. But experts say there are few quick fixes to a crisis tied to so many factors, from strong demand for food from emerging economies such as China's to rising oil prices to the diversion of food resources to make biofuels. There are no scripts on how to handle the crisis either. In Asia, governments are putting in place measures to limit hoarding of rice after some shoppers panicked at price increases and bought up everything they could. Even in Thailand, which produces ten million more tons of rice than it consumes and is the world's largest rice exporter, supermarkets have put up signs limiting the amount of rice shoppers are allowed to buy. In Cairo, Egypt, the military is being put to work baking bread as rising food prices threaten to become the spark that ignites wider anger at the government. In Burkina Faso and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, food riots are breaking out as never before. In reasonably prosperous Malaysia, the ruling coalition was nearly ousted by voters who cited food and fuel price increases as their main concerns.

Source: <http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/world/39Perfect-storm39-food-crisis-grips.4000872.jp>

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Water Sector

25. *April 22, New York Times* – (Virginia) **Mercury migrating out of rivers to the shore.** Mercury contamination can be a big problem in rivers, as it moves up the food chain accumulating in top predators. But what goes into the river largely stays in the river, or in creatures that feed in it – aquatic insects, fish, and fish-eating birds. In the South River in Virginia, however, the mercury has moved from the river to the shore, according to a study by researchers at the College of William and Mary. They report in Science that some nonaquatic bird species, not feeding on fish, but breeding within 50 yards of the river, have high mercury levels in their blood. The South, a Shenandoah tributary, was heavily contaminated with mercury sulfate from a DuPont factory from 1930 to 1950. Fish and aquatic birds on the river have long been known to be contaminated. But most of the 13 terrestrial birds tested had levels similar to or higher

than the aquatic birds. Researchers say the main culprit is spiders, which in some cases make up 30 percent of birds' diets and have high levels of mercury. The spiders obtain mercury from their prey, either aquatic insects that are contaminated or terrestrial insects that develop in areas contaminated by flooding.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/22/science/22obmerc.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

26. *April 22, Rocky Mountain News* – (Colorado) **Death in Alamosa linked to salmonella.** Health officials in Alamosa, Colorado, confirmed Monday that the death earlier this month of a resident was “salmonella associated.” But they stopped short of saying that a recent salmonella outbreak that forced the city to shut down its water system caused the death of the person. The director of Alamosa County Nursing Services said the person died in April, sometime after the city had flushed its water system to rid it of the bacteria. She would not say if the person was suffering from any pre-existing medical conditions. But tests performed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment confirmed that the same strain of salmonella that was discovered in the municipal water system was found in the person who died.

Source: <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/apr/22/death-in-alamosa-linked-to-salmonella/>

27. *April 21, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **Potentially toxic bug repellent DEET turns up in Sun-Times tests of Chicago's drinking water.** The insect repellent DEET is used by 100 million Americans each year, in total quantities exceeding the use of some agricultural pesticides. After we shower and wash our clothes, DEET winds up in rivers and lakes. And now, testing done for the Chicago Sun-Times has found, it is in our drinking water. The concentration detected in a sampling of Chicago tap water was low – 8.3 parts per trillion. Health experts said the level found in the Sun-Times testing should not pose a health hazard. Still, a professor at Duke University who has done extensive research on the neurological effects of DEET said, “This raises a red flag. [When] you have so many people using it, the risk is there.” The U.S. government does not have standards for DEET in drinking water. Nor does it require the removal of other contaminants recently found in other water studies – including pharmaceuticals, flame retardants, and plasticizers. Last month, Illinois officials announced that they are testing treated and untreated water around the state for chemical compounds. The cities whose water will be tested include Chicago, Elgin, Aurora, Rock Island, and East St. Louis. State officials said they expect to release results of those tests in late June.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/905720,CST-NWS-water21.article>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *April 22, USA TODAY* – (International) **Contaminated heparin found in 11 countries; 81 dead in U.S.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Monday that contaminated heparin, a blood thinner, has been detected in 11 countries and that the number of U.S. deaths potentially linked to the contamination has risen to 81, up from 62. The contamination is “a worldwide problem,” said the director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. U.S. supplies currently in circulation have been

tested and are safe, she added. The contaminated raw product that went into the heparin came from 12 companies, all located in China, the FDA says. The affected countries are Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the U.S. Baxter International, the largest supplier of heparin in the U.S., recalled most of its heparin products in February.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/04/22/20080422heparin0422.html>

29. *April 22, Reuters* – (International) **Bird flu resurfaces in northeast India.** Authorities in a remote northeastern state of India prepared to cull thousands of chickens after a fresh outbreak of bird flu in poultry was detected on Tuesday, officials said. More than 25,000 chickens and ducks have already been slaughtered in Tripura state this month after eight villages were hit by the H5N1 strain. On Tuesday, officials said bird flu had spread to a new area. The remote northeastern state borders Bangladesh, where more than half the country's districts have been affected by the virus. In India, the virus resurfaced in the eastern state of West Bengal in January this year, forcing authorities to cull more than four million birds. Since then, the virus has flared up intermittently, hitting poultry sales in the region. Many states banned poultry products, pulling down prices sharply and prompting farmers to cut production.

Source: <http://in.reuters.com/article/health/idINDEL22236420080422?sp=true>

30. *April 21, Reuters* – (National) **US watchdog critical of FDA foreign drug oversight.** U.S. authorities increased inspections of foreign drug plants last year but still checked only a fraction of sites that supply medicine ingredients to the U.S. market, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is set to tell Congress on Tuesday. Concern about Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversight of foreign drug manufacturers has risen since the finding of a contaminant in some batches of blood-thinner heparin that were made with raw ingredients from China. The GAO will testify that the FDA increased inspections of foreign manufacturing sites to about 11 percent last year and took other steps in recent months, but made limited progress overall. Congress is considering legislation meant to strengthen the FDA's oversight and increase funding for inspections.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN21484208>

Government Facilities Sector

31. *April 21, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Chicago Police: 'Suspicious object' at federal building.** Chicago police are investigating a "suspicious object" found at the Dirksen Federal Building. A police spokeswoman says the police department's Bomb and Arson squad has been called to the scene. She did not have further details on what the object was and who located it. Authorities are blocking traffic around the downtown Chicago building, and several nearby buildings have been evacuated.

Source: http://www.wthitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8205365&nav=menu593_2

32. *April 21, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Suspicious package on White House grounds cleared.** The Secret Service says a suspicious package found on the

northeast grounds of the White House has been declared safe. A Secret Service spokesman says the package was spotted around 3 p.m. and was cleared at 5:10 p.m. He declined to say what type of package it was, or whether any arrests were made.

Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1352458~Suspicious_package_on_White_House_grounds_cleared.html

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *April 22, Rocky Mountain News* – (Colorado) **Colo. safety agencies awarded \$14.3 million.** Colorado has been awarded a \$14.3 million federal Department of Homeland Security grant to improve public safety communication systems. The award will go toward implementing the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan by purchasing digital radios, communications towers, and antennas, making upgrades to emergency operations centers, and providing communications training and exercises to first-responders. The grant is among \$968 million that the Department of Homeland Security is awarding nationwide to enhance the communications capabilities of first-responders and public safety agencies in every state and U.S. territory. Eighty percent of the money will go to local public safety agencies that have to provide 20 percent in matching funds. Source: <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/apr/22/colo-safety-agencies-awarded-143-million/>

34. *April 22, Examiner* – (Pennsylvania) **Peach Bottom nuclear plant set for drill.** Harford's Emergency Operations Center and state officials will test emergency communication systems, conduct field activities, and evaluate their emergency response to a simulation at Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, said a spokeswoman for Harford's emergency operations division. "Team members will get a phone call, they'll give a very sketchy idea of what's happened, and then we go into action," she said. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will evaluate the response, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will assess specifically the on-site reaction of Exelon Nuclear, the company that manages the plant, said an NRC spokeswoman. This will be the first test of the guards since Exelon took over security from contractor Wackenhut. Harford will not set off its own emergency sirens, but sirens will be going off at the plant. The drill will be held on Tuesday and on Wednesday night. Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1353109~Peach_Bottom_nuclear_plant_set_for_drill.html

35. *April 21, WTOC 11 Savannah* – (South Carolina) **National Guard, emergency crews, training in Beaufort County.** More than 3,000 National Guard troops are in Beaufort County through April 24, training for any emergency situation from terrorism to hurricanes and everything in between as part of Vigilant Guard South Carolina 2008. A National Guard spokesman said 52 simulated scenarios will be drilled. Source: <http://www.wtoctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8204778>

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Information Technology

36. *April 22, Age* – (International) **S. Korea's presidential office hit by computer virus attack.** South Korea's presidential office said Tuesday its computer systems had been infected by a computer virus, resulting in the leak of some non-classified data. The presidential Blue House said in a statement the now-defunct secretariat of the presidential National Security Council was infected with a "worm" virus due to human negligence in mid-February, days before the new president took office. Traces of a virus were discovered in early March during security checks on computer systems received from the previous government, according to the president's office. The virus attack caused the leak of personal and other data, the statement said, but a presidential spokesman said the data was not classified. The Blue House has taken actions to counter viruses and is considering disciplinary measures for those involved, according to the statement.
Source: <http://news.theage.com.au/skoreas-presidential-office-hit-by-computer-virus-attack/20080422-27ve.html>
37. *April 22, Economic Times India* – (International) **Beware of hacker attacks via Orkut, Facebook.** As per the 2007 Internet Security Threat Report compiled by anti-virus and security solutions major Symantec, social networking sites have become the latest target of hackers to attack home and enterprise computers. "With the web emerging as the seamless medium of communication, information and interaction, online users are prone to get infected by engaging in social networking and browsing frequented websites due to malicious online activity in the form of worms, bots, viruses and Trojans," Symantec India managing director said. Some of the popular social networking sites on the worldwide web are Bebo, Facebook (70 million registered users worldwide), Flickr (9.6 million users), MySpace (1.1 billion users), and Orkut.
Source:
http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/Beware_of_hacker_attacks_via_Orkut_Facebook/articleshow/2970560.cms
38. *April 21, IDG News Service* – (International) **Mac hack contest bug had been public for a year.** The winner of last month's PWN2OWN contest to install unauthorized software on a machine running a fully patched version the Mac OS X operating system exploited a flaw that had been publicly disclosed nearly a year before the contest. The flaw, it turns out, lay in an open-source software library called the Perl Compatible Regular Expressions (PCRE) library, which is used by many products including Apache, the PHP scripting language, and Apple's Safari browser, which a person hacked to win the contest. In an e-mail interview, a security researcher said he found the bug, which he publicly disclosed in November 2007. PCRE developers fixed the bug months earlier while writing an incomplete fix for the issue in the May 2007 PCRE 6.7 product. Although Apple's Safari browser uses the PCRE software library, the company did not patch its version of the library until late last week. That means that an astute hacker who had noticed the fix in PCRE 6.7 would have been given an early tip on how to hack into Apple's computers. Discovering a software bug is the first step toward figuring out how to use that flaw in an attack, but not every flaw leads to a successful exploit. In an e-mail

interview, the contest winner confirmed that the bug he had exploited was the same one that was patched in PCRE 6.7, but said that researchers at his company, Independent Security Evaluators, had found it “completely independently.”

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/144921/mac_hack_contest_bug_had_been_public_for_a_year.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

39. *April 20, IDG News Service* – (International) **Vietnam launches its first satellite.**

Vietnam launched its first satellite over the weekend to provide telecommunications, broadcasting, and Internet links across the country. Vinasat-1 was carried into space aboard an Ariane 5 rocket from the European spaceport in French Guiana at 7:17 p.m. local time Friday evening. “With transmission capacity equivalent to 10,000 voice, Internet and data channels, or 120 TV channels, Vinasat-1 will help Vietnam bring telecommunications, Internet and television services to all isolated, mountainous and island areas where other means of transmission is not feasible,” Vietnam’s minister of information and communication said in a televised speech shortly after the launch. The country is expecting economic gains from the telecommunications links that the satellite will support. Vinasat-1 was built by Lockheed Martin and will be positioned at 132-degrees East. It carries 12 Ku-band and 8 C-band transponders and has a design lifetime of 15 years. Its footprint will cover all of South East Asia in addition to the eastern part of China, India, Korea, Japan, Australia, and Hawaii. Five other nations in the region already have their own satellites in space: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/144864/vietnam_launches_its_first_satellite.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

40. *April 21, McDowell News* – (North Carolina) **The Sunrise Fire spreads to National Forest.** U.S. Forest Service officials said Sunday the blaze in the Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina, was 60 percent contained but had dropped to 50 percent Monday. The Sunrise Fire, as rangers have termed it, began on private property in the Oconee Falls subdivision Friday morning. An electrical malfunction sparked a blaze in a house, and the flames spread to national forest land, according to a Forest Service public information officer. About 180 personnel, three helicopters, four dozers, and 16 engines are assisting with the fire suppression effort.

Source:

http://www.mcdowellnews.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=MMN/MGArticle/MMN_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173355335816

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Dams Sector

41. *April 21, Associated Press* – (Montana) **State proposing upgrades to Ruby Dam.** The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing a \$12 million overhaul of Ruby Dam to replace the spillway and increase storage. The dam was built in 1938 and has not had much done to it since then. The chief of the DNRC's water projects bureau said the agency wants to replace the concrete spillway and increase its height by seven feet to allow more water storage; raise the dam's embankment by three feet and rehabilitate the outlet works. If the Legislature approves funding, the engineering and planning could start in 2009, with the construction starting the next year.

Source:

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080421/NEWS01/80421008>

42. *April 21, Mount Vernon News* – (Ohio) **Mohawk Dam not operating at planned capacity.** The Mohawk Dam in Ohio is still categorized as urgently in need of repair, but needed repairs on the dam are unlikely to begin for another few years. The Mohawk Dam was completed in 1937, and the infrastructure has now reached the point where it is in need of repair. Last year, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) board of directors agreed on a maintenance and rehabilitation plan for the entire district, at a projected cost of \$210 million. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has owned and operated the dams in the MWCD since ownership was transferred in the late 1930s. It is the USACE that has categorized the Mohawk Dam in urgent need of maintenance and rehabilitation.

Source: http://www.mountvernonnews.com/local/08/04/21/mohawk_dam.html

43. *April 21, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Wall to fix Lake Okeechobee dike passes test.** A new wall being built to fix Lake Okeechobee's aging dike passed a key test, allowing work to move forward in May on the plan to protect south Florida from

flooding. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is building a wall through the middle of the earthen dike as part of a rehab plan to head off erosion and avoid a New Orleans-style breach. An initial 500-foot section of the wall this month passed a series of tests for strength and permeability, a Corps spokeswoman said. The testing also prompted the agency to change its construction requirements, giving contractors more flexibility while requiring additional testing for stability.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl-421lakewall,0,784458.story>

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