



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

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- The Indy Star reports that air traffic controllers at the Indianapolis Tower Facility at Indianapolis International Airport released statistics they say show an alarming increase in safety mishaps. The tower has reported six “operational errors” this year, on pace to surpass the 12 reported in 2007, the controllers union said. (See item [19](#))
- The Air Force Times reports that the Fifth Bomb Wing at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, has failed its defense nuclear surety inspection, according to a Defense Threat Reduction Agency report. Security broke down on multiple levels during simulated attacks, including against nuclear weapons storage areas. The errors were attributed primarily to lack of supervision and leadership among security forces. (See item [38](#))

### **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. *May 30, KETV 7 Omaha* – (Nebraska) **Governor declares state of emergency.** Nebraska’s governor has declared a state of emergency after tornadoes were reported Thursday in the communities of Kearney and Aurora. Buffalo County’s emergency manager reported that a tornado swept through Kearney Thursday evening, causing extensive damage to trees and homes. A damaged power line forced the closure of I-80 between Aurora and York just before 8 p.m. The storm front has downed several Nebraska Public Power District transmission, sub-transmission, and distribution lines in

the Kearney area and left approximately 12,000 customers without power in the community. The areas primarily impacted are the northwest, northeast, and southeast portions of the city. The town of Fairbury also had a reported tornado touch down. Power lines and trees were down across the town, and power was out until 8 a.m.  
Source: <http://www.ketv.com/weather/16430260/detail.html>

2. *May 29, Reuters* – (National) **Mexico’s Pemex sees below-target oil output in ‘08.** Crude production at Mexican state oil monopoly Pemex will remain below-target all year after a disappointing first quarter, the chief executive said on Thursday. He said oil output could recover to a yearly average of 2.9 million barrels per day, up from 2.767 million in April but still below Pemex’s target 3.0 million bpd. Mexico is the world’s No. 6 exporter of oil and a top supplier to the U.S. Its crude output has been declining since peaking at 3.4 million bpd in 2004, mainly because of dropping yields at its aging Cantarell field. The chief executive said a damaged pipeline at Cantarell and other technical problems had hurt production. He said yields will keep dropping fast at Cantarell for now and noted the hurricane season is at hand.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2935295220080529>
3. *May 29, Platts* – (West) **Rains, floods delay train loadings at PRB mines.** Western railroads are sending fewer shipments out of the Powder River Basin (PRB) as rains are slowing production and coal train loadings. But shipments may be moving toward normalcy. A Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway spokesman said rains over the past week led to flooding of some Powder River Basin operations, resulting in the loss of 66 train loadings over the past five days. “Weather in the area is moderating, and mines are expected to be able to resume normal loading this week,” he said. Union Pacific (UP) has seen delays in PRB train loadings since May 22. “Heavy rains in the [south PRB] slowed coal production and caused reduced loadings due to water in the pits and unusually wet conditions,” the railroad said. In May, missed train loadings spiked at the mines for UP. Of the 110 missed train-loading opportunities during the month, 80 were attributable to the mines, in large part because of the weather issues. The railroad made up a part of the missed shipments with 60 extra loadings this month. UP loaded 206 coal trains during May 19-25, down from 251 trains May 12-18. The railroad loaded 248 trains during May 5-11.  
Source:  
<http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/6887407.xml?sub=Coal&p=Coal/News&?undefined&undefined>
4. *May 29, Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Spike in energy prices prompts emergency PUC meeting.** Texas regulators have called an emergency meeting Thursday morning after unexpected spikes in wholesale energy prices began driving up rates charged to Texans who have been involuntarily switched to other electric companies. At issue are rates charged by “Provider of Last Resort” companies. In the last month, two companies – Bridgeport-based PreBuy Electric and Houston-based National Power – failed to keep up with their financial obligations, and as a result thousands of their customers were forcibly switched to providers of last resort. The wholesale prices in question hit the \$2,250 during one interval Wednesday, and were above \$1,000 for several intervals on

Tuesday. Typically, those wholesale energy prices are less than \$100. On Wednesday, 15,163 customers of National Power – including more than 4,000 in north Texas – began getting transferred involuntarily to other carriers.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/news/story/670764.html>

5. *May 29, KFDM 6 Beaumont* – (Texas) **Entergy ready for June 1 start of hurricane season.** Hurricane season begins June 1, and Entergy has been working all year long on the best way to restore power if a storm knocks out electricity. Utility workers are having drills to improve their ability to communicate and work together. Entergy says no two storms are alike, but every storm provides lessons, especially when thousands of southeast Texans need power. Entergy has been preparing for hurricane season by making plans to bring in linemen, food, generators, and find places for them to stay should they be needed if a storm hits. Once power goes out during a hurricane, Entergy uses color coded maps of the disaster area to know which areas have power and which do not.

Source:

[http://www.kfdm.com/news/entergy\\_26250\\_article.html/power\\_southeast.html](http://www.kfdm.com/news/entergy_26250_article.html/power_southeast.html)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

6. *May 29, WSPA 7 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **EPA figuring out chemical clean-up in Lyman.** Experts are beginning to test contaminated soil and roadways Thursday afternoon after investigators say toxic waste was spread over 13 miles of roadways. Two suspects are accused of dumping electroplating waste on more than 12 miles of roadways in Lyman either late Monday night or early Tuesday morning. The toxic liquid can burn skin if touched. The Tyger River Fire Department is setup as the command post for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and Environmental Control. Thursday afternoon they are testing a clean up technique on one of the contaminated roads. Thursday, the EPA plan is to test the soil and clean up techniques. They also will be testing water. The EPA says they are specifically trying to identify chrome on the ground which is found in electroplating waste.

Source: <http://www.wspa.com/midatlantic/spa/news.apx.-content-articles-SPA-2008-05-29-0007.html>

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

7. *May 30, Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **New team wins \$7.1 billion Hanford tank farm contract.** A new contracting team headed by URS Corp.'s Washington Division and EnergySolutions was awarded a \$7.1 billion contract Thursday to operate Hanford's tank farms. Washington River Protection Solutions will begin the transition to take over operations July 1 and take charge October 1, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. The team includes Areva as a major subcontractor. The five-year contract has an option to renew for five years to earn the full contract amount. The team will replace

CH2M Hill Hanford Group, which also bid on the contract. URS owns 45 percent, EnergySolutions 40 percent, and Areva 15 percent of their venture. In addition to retrieving waste from Hanford's oldest tanks to store in 28 newer tanks, the new contract also calls for closing the emptied tanks and preparing to treat the waste at Hanford's vitrification plant. It requires construction of a system to deliver waste to the vit plant and possible construction and operation of supplemental treatment, such as bulk vitrification.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/901/story/198316.html>

8. *May 30, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Oyster Creek plant to test its emergency warning siren system.** A full-volume siren test for the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant's 10-mile emergency planning zone will be done about 10 a.m. Tuesday, according to an e-mailed statement. AmerGen Energy Co. will be conducting the annual test in cooperation with Ocean County and the state Office of Emergency Management, the statement says. The 42-siren system, which is within a 10-mile radius of the plant, will be activated for about three minutes, the statement says. The warning sirens are one of several methods emergency management officials use to provide notification of emergencies. The county may activate the sirens to warn the surrounding community about threats such as fires, floods, tornadoes, hazardous material releases or nuclear plant events, according to the statement.

Source:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080530/NEWS03/805300458/1007/NEWS03>

9. *May 29, Platts* – (Arizona) **Palo Verde-2 experiences 'unusual incident,' ramp-up delayed: APS.** Arizona Public Service (APS) has launched an investigation of an "unusual incident" that occurred Wednesday during the ramp-up of its Palo Verde-2 nuclear power reactor, which has been offline for refueling since April 1, the utility said Thursday. "This was not an emergency situation or a significant event, but what happened was unusual," said an APS spokesman. "We will do a very thorough root cause analysis so we understand what took place, and then finish up the outage," he said. Palo Verde-2 was originally expected to be offline about 45 days. According to a event report filed by APS with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit "operators manually tripped the reactor, as directed by procedures, when four control rods, "slipped to the fully inserted position while conducting low power physics testing following Unit 2's fourteenth refueling outage."

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6887408.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *May 28, Army News Service* – (International) **Army to Equip Brigade with 'Land Warrior'.** As Land Warrior reaches its first anniversary in combat, the Army is seeking to equip an entire brigade combat team with the high-tech system. This system increases

mission speed and effectiveness and decreases risks to the warfighter. The Army has approved an Operational Needs Statement to field the Land Warrior system to the 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, in 2009. During the past year, Soldiers with the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment have faced the challenges of asymmetric warfare in Iraq using Land Warrior. The battalion's success has prompted others to ask for the system. Land Warrior is a modular fighting system that uses state-of-the-art computer, communications, and global positioning technologies to digitally link soldiers on the battlefield. The system is integrated with the soldier's body armor and has a helmet-mounted display. Soldiers wearing the Land Warrior system can easily access detailed maps, execution checklists, and other mission-essential information stored by the system. The system can store more than 600 images including photographs of targets, locations, etc.

Source: <http://www.army.mil/-news/2008/05/28/9450-army-to-equip-brigade-with-land-warrior/>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *May 30, WISC 3 Madison* – (Wisconsin) **Authorities investigate company accused of giving bogus parking tickets.** A Madison-based company is the subject of an investigation by state and local officials into reports of area residents getting fake parking tickets. The company, a private security firm, is not authorized to write tickets, WISC-TV reported. Madison and DeForest police, along with the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing, executed search warrants at the headquarters of Metropolitan Protective Services, as well as at the DeForest home of the company's owners. According to a police news release, authorities said the investigation began after several Madison residents said that they received parking citations on their vehicles. The citations identified the company as Metropolitan Private Police and requested them to send payment to a DeForest PO box. Authorities said that at least two people are involved in the scam. Both cities' police departments said that motorists should not pay such a ticket, and instead should contact DeForest police.

Source: <http://www.channel3000.com/news/16426810/detail.html>

12. *May 29, Associated Press* – (National) **State Street says personal data has been stolen.** Financial services firm State Street Corp. said Thursday the personal data of some employees and customers of Investors Financial Services was stolen from a vendor's facility, but there is no evidence data has been used. State Street acquired Investors Financial Services, a provider of investment services to hedge funds, in July 2007. Customers and employees of Investors Financial Services are being notified of the data breach, and State Street set up a page on its Web site to provide customers and employees more information. State Street said it will provide those with data stolen free credit monitoring services for two years.

Source:

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/apwire/a4dbcba215375cff00950d2bc7e7d673.htm>

13. *May 29, Computerworld* – (National) **Man charged with using cartoon names to defraud brokerages.** A California man was arraigned this week in federal court in Sacramento on multiple counts of computer fraud, wire fraud and mail fraud for allegedly opening 58,000 fake brokerage accounts. He was charged with using false Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers and names – even the names of cartoon and comic book characters – to open the accounts. The man used the accounts to steal so-called micro-deposits of a few cents to a few dollars deposited by brokerage firms into new accounts to verify that users can access them. According to documents from the U.S. Department of Justice, the suspect allegedly defrauded ETrade, Charles Schwab & Co. and other businesses using this scheme between November 2007 and May 2008. When the micro-deposits were made, he allegedly transferred or attempted to transfer the funds into his bank accounts and onto prepaid debit cards. This was allegedly done without the companies' knowledge or authorization. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of California, both ETrade and Charles Schwab detected the alleged fraud and contacted law enforcement. The case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and the FBI.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyId=17&articleId=9090938&intsrc=hm\\_topic](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyId=17&articleId=9090938&intsrc=hm_topic)

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## **Transportation Sector**

14. *May 29, Kansas City Star* – (Kansas) **Plane evacuated after bomb threat; no explosives found.** A bomb threat prompted the evacuation of 134 passengers and crew from a Southwest Airlines flight Thursday night at Kansas City International Airport. A KCI spokesman said a caller warned there was a bomb aboard Southwest flight 46, which was en route from Dallas to Kansas City when the threat was received shortly after 9 p.m. He said pilots landed the plane away from the terminal, and airport personnel used buses to transport people away from the aircraft and into the terminal. Teams of bomb-sniffing dogs and their handlers swept the plane for dangerous material, giving the all-clear signal shortly after 11 p.m.

Source: [http://www.kansascity.com/news/breaking\\_news/story/642113.html](http://www.kansascity.com/news/breaking_news/story/642113.html)

15. *May 29, Reuters* – (National) **Chertoff keen on Israeli airport security technology.** The U.S. Homeland Security Secretary said on Thursday he will seek to adopt novel Israeli methods, like behavior-detection technologies, to better secure America's airports. Israel's Ben-Gurion International Airport, known for its strict security measures, relies heavily on techniques that detect suspicious behavior among travelers. The official said such methods, as well as Israeli technologies that detect explosives, are some of the things that may help protect U.S. airports and other public places against attacks. One of the new systems presented at a conference in Jerusalem for public and homeland security ministers from around the world, uses behavioral science, together with biometric sensors, to detect sinister intentions among travelers. The U.S. homeland security chief said that not all methods developed and used in Israel, such as questioning every passenger, are practical in larger U.S. airports.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL29854328>

16. *May 29, Chico Enterprise-Record* – (California) **Bomb threat on bus forces evacuation of two Orland blocks.** Comments from a passenger that a bomb had been planted in the engine compartment of a Glenn Ride bus Wednesday afternoon prompted the evacuation of nearly two square blocks in downtown Orland, California. According to a press release from Orland police, a Chico resident began asking if a Glenn Ride bus had blown up earlier Wednesday. He then allegedly made claims to the driver that the bus they were on carried a bomb that was ready to detonate. Officers from the Butte County Interagency Bomb Squad searched the bus and found nothing suspicious.  
Source: [http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci\\_9412000](http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_9412000)
  
17. *May 29, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Evacuation order lifted in south Omaha.** An evacuation order in south Omaha has been lifted after a chemical spill forced residents out. A fire official says about 150 gallons of hydrochloric acid leaked from a Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail car Wednesday evening. Homes and businesses were evacuated, including Rosenblatt Stadium and the Henry Doorly Zoo. The battalion chief of the Omaha Fire Department said the leak was caused by a defective valve. He said the rail car held about 100,000 gallons of the corrosive chemical. Exposure could damage respiratory organs, eyes, skin and intestines. No injuries were reported.  
Source: [http://www.kptm.com/Global/story.asp?S=8393916&nav=menu606\\_2\\_4](http://www.kptm.com/Global/story.asp?S=8393916&nav=menu606_2_4)
  
18. *May 29, News Scientist* – (International) **In-flight surveillance could foil terrorists in the sky.** CCTV cameras are bringing more and more public places under surveillance – and passenger aircraft could be next. A prototype European system uses multiple cameras and software to try and automatically detect terrorists or other dangers caused by passengers. The European Union’s Security of Aircraft in the Future European Environment (SAFEE) project uses a camera in every passenger’s seat, with six wide-angle cameras to survey the aisles. Software then analyses the footage to detect developing terrorist activity or “air-rage” incidents, by tracking passengers’ facial expressions. The system performed well in tests this January that simulated terrorist and unruly passenger behavior scenarios in a fake Airbus A380 fuselage, say the researchers that built it. Systems to analyze CCTV footage – for example, to detect violence (with video) or alert CCTV operators to unusual events – have been designed before. But the SAFEE software must cope with the particularly challenging environment of a full aircraft cabin. One of the system’s developers admits that his system will require thousands of tests on everyday passengers before it can be declared reliable at detecting threats.  
Source: [http://technology.newscientist.com/article/dn14013-inflight-surveillance-could-foil-terrorists-in-the-sky.html?DCMP=ILC-hmts&nsref=news3\\_head\\_dn14013](http://technology.newscientist.com/article/dn14013-inflight-surveillance-could-foil-terrorists-in-the-sky.html?DCMP=ILC-hmts&nsref=news3_head_dn14013)
  
19. *May 29, IndyStar* – (National) **FAA, controllers spar over safety of Indy skies.** Indianapolis became the latest front in a nationwide dispute Wednesday when air traffic controllers here released statistics they say show an alarming increase in safety mishaps. The Indianapolis Tower Facility at Indianapolis International Airport has reported six “operational errors” this year, on pace to surpass the 12 reported in 2007, the controllers

union said. Those errors occur when two aircraft fly closer to each other than the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules allow. Controllers at the Indianapolis Center Facility also reported an increase in mistakes. That facility tracks more than 71,000 square miles of airspace in portions of seven states. A union representative for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association there said the center has experienced a dramatic increase in “operational deviations,” in which aircraft enter airspace without the knowledge of a controller. Five months into the year, the center has experienced 35 deviations, compared with 31 in 2007 and two in 2006. Oftentimes, two union representatives say, controllers are forced to work overtime with only an hour’s notice, and many are required to work an extra shift at least twice a month, leading to fatigue and mistakes. The FAA said it is hiring to keep up with the pace of retirements and that controllers are manipulating statistics to drum up safety concerns that do not exist. Much of the dispute centers on stalled labor talks between controllers and the FAA.

Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080529/LOCAL18/805290464>

20. *May 29, WYFF 4 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Bridge crossed by thousands needs ‘emergency repairs’**. A bridge over Interstate 26 near Landrum that more than 11,000 motorists a day pass over has a severely deteriorated deck that needs emergency repairs, according to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). And to make matters worse, there is no available detour. The Transportation Secretary said he has approved emergency repairs for “safety reasons and to reduce inconvenience to the public.” SCDOT said that there are no acceptable detours because of the narrowness of the local road system in the area. SCDOT also said that its maintenance unit does not have the proper equipment for a repair of this magnitude. Transportation officials said that the bridge deck is severely deteriorated below the asphalt surface. The secretary said, “The bridge is structurally sound, aside from the deck issues, so I have approved the emergency procurement of a contract so that the work can be done properly and quickly.” SCDOT will take bids on the project through June 2. One lane of the bridge will remain open, and flaggers will control traffic until the repairs are complete.

Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/16428852/detail.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

21. *May 29, Western Farm Press* – (National) **California lettuce industry notes detection of INSV in Salinas Valley**. The impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) turned up in Salinas Valley fields in 2007 affecting fields around Castroville, Chualar, Gonzales, Greenfield, Salinas, and Soledad. Of the 20 or so fields confirmed with INSV last year several showed 30 percent to 50 percent infection and significant crop loss. A Monterey



County farm advisor stated that INSV symptoms' include multiple brown necrotic spots on leaves and petioles, resembling pesticide or fertilizer burn. The disease has been confirmed on iceberg, romaine, and green leaf lettuces. The Monterey County farm advisor explained, "INSV is a tospovirus and, like the more commonly known tomato spotted wilt virus, it is vectored by thrips. Typically, INSV is known to be more of a greenhouse disease concern on flowering ornamental plants. The infection of lettuce, therefore, is an apparent departure from this pattern. The exact reasons behind the INSV outbreak on lettuce are not known."

Source: <http://westernfarmpress.com/vegetables/insv-lettuce-0529/>

22. *May 29, Suffolk Times* – (New York) **Decision to move animal research center questioned.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is considering moving the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, where foot and mouth disease is researched, to a new facility at one of five sites on the mainland. According to DHS, the Plum Island Animal Disease Center is an aging facility in need of a multimillion-dollar major overhaul even if it is to remain operating as a biosafety level (BSL)-3 Agriculture (Agro) lab. DHS is in the final stages of preparing its draft environmental impact statement on six potential sites for a new, BSL-4 National Bio- and Agro-defense facility. DHS based its decision to look to relocate the facility to the mainland on a 2002 U.S. Department of Agriculture study that found safely doing the research on the mainland is technically feasible. The Government Accountability Office managing director explained, "This approach fails to recognize the distinction between what is technically feasible and what is possible, given the potential for human error." Human error allowed the virus to be released on Plum Island in 1978, where it infected "clean animals held outside the laboratory" for future research. There have been at least six other internal releases inside the lab between 1971 and 2004, according to the report. "In the 50 years since the Plum Island facility was built, laboratory design and bio-containment procedures have evolved dramatically," a DHS spokesperson said Tuesday. Source: [http://www2.timesreview.com/ST/stories/T052908\\_plum\\_den](http://www2.timesreview.com/ST/stories/T052908_plum_den)
23. *May 28, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **German milk strike spreads to other European countries.** On the second day of their strike nearly 30,000 German dairy farmers halted milk deliveries to retailers Wednesday, according to the European Milk Board based in Germany. Austria's IG Milch dairy association urged the country's 43,000 dairy producers to halt deliveries to dairy factories from Thursday in protest at the milk price. Uniterre, the Swiss farmers' trade union, said approximately 100 dairy producers in the west of the country voted Wednesday in favor of joining a delivery strike in support of German producers. Switzerland's Big-M union said 200 producers in the Zurich region had delivered virtually no milk on Wednesday. Agrostar, the Romanian agricultural trade union, said dairy farmers would stage a three-day picket outside the French embassy in Bucharest and the Danone company headquarters to demand better prices for their milk. Germany's BDM dairy federation, which represents almost half of the country's producers, said it had also received "declarations of support" from Belgium, Luxembourg, and "parts of France." IG Milch dairy association warned hospitals, kindergarten nurseries, and schools to start stocking dairy products. The BDM said that milk prices agreed between suppliers and supermarkets have fallen by as much as 15 euro cents per liter compared to last year, while dairies' operating

costs have risen. It is demanding that the milk price be pushed up to 43 cents per liter.  
Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080528/bs\\_afp/germanyaustrifoodfarmingpricestrike](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080528/bs_afp/germanyaustrifoodfarmingpricestrike)

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## **Water Sector**

24. *May 30, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Arsenal deal opens tap for cleanup.** Colorado's quarter-century-long legal tussle over groundwater pollution at the former Rocky Mountain Arsenal ended Thursday with the announcement of a historic \$35 million settlement. Shell Oil Co. and the U.S. Army – which produced various chemicals from 1942 to 1982 at the arsenal, northeast of downtown Denver – have agreed to pay the state \$35 million in damages for polluting groundwater at the site, the state attorney general said Thursday. The amount is the largest environmental settlement in state history, and it comes in addition to work the two organizations are doing to clean up leftover groundwater and other pollution. Money from the settlement will go to a variety of open-space and land-restoration projects around the arsenal. The final settlement figure includes \$6.6 million the Army paid to build a water-treatment plant on the site in 1989. While producing chemical warfare agents, the Army and Shell put chemical waste into pits that had inadequate or no seals, causing chemicals to leak into the groundwater. Several plumes of contaminated groundwater flowed to the north off the arsenal site.  
Source: [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_9421154](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_9421154)
  
25. *May 29, Flint Journal* – (Michigan) **Richfield Landfill's cleanup plan approved, can begin expansion in Richfield Township.** Richfield Landfill owners say cleanup efforts could start within weeks to stop contamination leaking from old storage cells on the 272-acre site in Flint, Michigan. The first step involves cleaning up a wetland area on the site. Technical work will also begin in early June on a series of purge wells around the property borders to capture and remove contaminated groundwater, which then can be hauled away for proper disposal. All the contamination is believed to come from old cells built before Richfield Equities bought and reopened the landfill in 2002, under an agreement to bring the site up to current standards and clean up any historic problems. Two years ago, the landfill's neighbors were told the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) had discovered groundwater contaminated with chemicals, including chloride, ammonia, iron, boron, manganese, and sodium, was leaving the site's southern and possibly northwest boundaries. A plume of contamination also was found venting into Holloway Reservoir, a valued sport fishery and the city of Flint's backup drinking water supply. Richfield has agreed to pay for municipal water and sewer lines for the neighborhood, including any hookup fees. Homeowners within the remediation area will receive water filters to use as a precautionary measure until the new water and sewer lines are installed. No contamination has been detected in wells except for naturally occurring arsenic unrelated to the landfill, the DEQ report said.  
Source: [http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/richfield\\_landfills\\_cleanup\\_pl.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/05/richfield_landfills_cleanup_pl.html)
  
26. *May 29, Poughkeepsie Journal* – (New York) **Tests give most wells a clean bill of**

**health.** The aquifers supplying Dutchess County groundwater are in good shape, but it is up to individual homeowners to monitor and maintain their wells, health officials said Wednesday. A county executive announced the results of the first phase of tests on 125 privately owned wells conducted between January 5 and April 9. The director of the Health Department's Environmental Health Services said the results showed elevated sodium levels as the most common contaminant, probably due to road salt runoff and water softener backwash. The second most common contaminant was coliform bacteria, most likely because of wells that are poorly constructed or compromised by sewer or surface water. The official said there were no findings indicating organic compounds that exceeded maximum contamination levels. He said the results compared favorably to the state drinking water standards and county guidelines for public water supplies. There are about 30,000 private wells in Dutchess County. Three southern Dutchess towns – Wappinger, East Fishkill, and Fishkill – enacted legislation requiring well testing at the point a house is sold.

Source:

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080529/NEWS01/805290342/1006>

27. *May 29, Jackson Hole Star-Tribune* – (Wyoming) **Faulty pump prompts water-restriction plea.** The city of Casper, Wyoming, needs the help of area residents to make sure untreated sewage water does not enter the North Platte River during the next few days. About ten days ago, city officials noticed cracks in the third, and final, screw pump at the wastewater treatment plant. By Tuesday, the cracks grew, said a public services department director. On May 22, the city council authorized an emergency contract to bring an auxiliary pump from Seattle to alleviate the situation, the official said. But the pump will not arrive until later this week and probably would not be running until Saturday or Sunday. Right now, the limited pump usage is keeping up with the wastewater flow, and there has been no contamination. Three screw pumps move the sewage around the Sam Hobbs Wastewater Treatment Plant. Without working pumps, the wastewater would be directly released into the North Platte River, the official said. The wastewater would be chlorinated but not treated. By reducing wastewater, city officials hope to reduce further damage to the second pump, which is still operating at 50 percent, and the third pump. If the pumps hold, the Platte River will not be contaminated. If there is a spill, the director of Casper-Natrona County Health Department said people should not swim, wade, or fish in the North Platte River. And they definitely should not drink the water. The city has already taken steps to reduce the wastewater in its own facilities.

Source:

<http://www.jacksonholestartrib.com/articles/2008/05/29/news/casper/1f38ec44206a623987257457008163da.txt>

28. *May 29, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Report gives state water a clean bill of health.** The overwhelming majority of Minnesota's 965 community water supply systems provided safe drinking water last year with few reports of contamination, the state Minnesota Department of Health said Thursday. The results of tests for 2007 are summarized in the department report on the state of Minnesota's drinking water. The

state's public water supply systems are tested regularly for bacteria, nitrate, and other inorganic chemicals, radiological elements, and more than 100 industrial chemicals and pesticides. One system exceeded current federal or state standards for pesticides or industrial contaminants. The city, Bayport, fixed the problem with a new water treatment plant. Detectable levels of coliform bacteria were found in 20 systems, including 17 municipal systems. Systems with coliform problems are routinely disinfected, flushed, and retested to ensure that the contamination is gone before being returned to normal service.

Source:

[http://www.startribune.com/local/19356379.html?location\\_refer=Most%20Emailed:Home](http://www.startribune.com/local/19356379.html?location_refer=Most%20Emailed:Home)

29. *May 29, Sudbury Star* – (International) **On a mission to make drinking water safe.** An operator of municipal water treatment plants in Greater Sudbury, Canada, is researching a potentially ground-breaking process to detect harmful contaminants in communal water systems. The operator is conducting research into a process to instantaneously detect harmful contaminants in communal water systems. As a doctoral candidate at Laurentian University, he is working with other scientists on an enzyme-based process that also uses fluorescence and fiber-optic technology to detect contaminants such as E. coli and coliform bacteria in communal water systems. If the process proves feasible, it would allow such contaminants to be detected instantaneously by an on-line computerized monitoring system. With current processes, it can take 24 hours before the contaminants are identified and appropriate actions taken to protect the public from consuming tainted water. Although this research “is still theoretical,” if it ultimately proves viable, it would have significant commercial potential.

Source: <http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1048195>

30. *May 29, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Unidentified pollutant kills 1,000 fish in Indiana County.** More than a thousand fish have died since Monday evening in Yellow Creek, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, as the result of an as yet unidentified pollutant. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the state Fish and Boat Commission are investigating the fish kill along four to seven miles of Yellow Creek between Yellow Creek State Park and the water intake of the Central Indiana County Water Authority. The authority's water supply to 2,000 households was not affected, said the authority manager, adding that the authority is using additional carbon filtration and treatment chemicals as a precaution. A DEP spokeswoman said department field investigators saw no visual evidence of anything wrong or unusual odor at the stream yesterday. Water samples were taken, and lab results are expected in two to three weeks.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08150/885685-56.stm>

31. *May 28, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Washoe County says tests show Reno water safe.** After extensive testing, Washoe County, Nevada, officials on Wednesday said the Reno-area's drinking water supply is clean and drug free. Tests were conducted by an independent laboratory on samples taken from five water sources, including groundwater wells as well as filtered water from the county's treatment plant on

Longley Lane, officials with county Department of Water Resources said. The samples were analyzed for 34 different compounds, including pharmaceuticals and personal care products. Only trace amounts of one substance, sulfamethoxazole, was detected in two samples. Based on the test results, the department “is not recommending any changes in customers’ water use habits.” The testing followed a series of stories by the Associated Press that said pharmaceuticals have been identified in some of the nation’s water supplies.

Source:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/N/NV\\_PHARMAWATER\\_RENO\\_NVOL-?SITE=CODEN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/N/NV_PHARMAWATER_RENO_NVOL-?SITE=CODEN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

32. *May 30, Associated Press* – (National) **Study: Bacteria may be link in sudden baby deaths.** A baffling phenomenon known as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is one of the leading causes of death for children under one. Now, British researchers say they may have found a contributing factor. They found potentially dangerous bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and *E. coli* in nearly half of all babies who died suddenly and without explanation over a decade at a London hospital. Their findings are in Friday’s *Lancet* medical journal. The researchers cautioned, however, that while the bacteria were found in the SIDS babies, it does not necessarily mean the bugs were responsible. Bacterial infections have long been suspected by some doctors to play a role in SIDS. A professor at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, where the study was conducted, and an aid of one of the paper’s authors stated that the higher level of bacteria might be evidence of another condition that killed the baby, such as a room that was too hot or had poor ventilation. Or it may have been coincidental. A SIDS diagnosis means that no other cause of death can be found in an otherwise healthy infant who dies suddenly, usually in their sleep. In the United States, SIDS kills more than 2,000 infants every year.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080530/ap\\_on\\_he\\_me/med\\_bacteria\\_baby\\_deaths;\\_ylt=AkGW6YZYGGzk9954fYeimc7VJRIF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080530/ap_on_he_me/med_bacteria_baby_deaths;_ylt=AkGW6YZYGGzk9954fYeimc7VJRIF)

33. *May 30, United Press International* – (National) **NRC updates guidance on thyroid treatment.** U.S. nuclear regulators say doctors need to take extra care to make sure young children are not exposed to radiation from thyroid cancer patients. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said patients given therapeutic doses of radioactive iodine-131 should avoid direct or indirect contact with infants and young children for a specific period of time following the therapy. The guidance also recommends that physicians should consider hospitalizing patients whose living conditions may result in the contamination of infants and young children, the agency said in a release. NRC regulations allow physicians to release patients treated with radioactive material if the total radiation dose to any other person exposed to the patient is not likely to exceed 500 millirem. The agency, however, said there has been concern in recent years that saliva from a patient in the first few days following treatment may result in significant

radiation doses to the child's thyroid.

Source:

[http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2008/05/30/nrc\\_updates\\_guidance\\_on\\_thyroid\\_treatment/7135/](http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2008/05/30/nrc_updates_guidance_on_thyroid_treatment/7135/)

34. *May 29, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Researchers tackle mysteries of mosquitoes and West Nile.** Researchers at South Dakota State University (SDSU) are trying to determine the role of temperature and moisture in producing the crop of mosquitoes that transmits West Nile virus. South Dakota has many species of mosquitoes, but only a few of them are the real threat to transmit West Nile to humans. A researcher at SDSU says people sometimes use repellent or expect a city to spray based on a population of nuisance mosquitoes that doesn't transmit the virus. He says the more dangerous mosquitoes come later in summer and sometimes are not as abundant. When that happens, he says people can become complacent about guarding themselves against bites and are more at risk of getting the disease.  
Source: <http://www.kxmc.com/News/243121.asp>
35. *May 29, Cincinnati Enquirer* – (National) **Biological weapons defense to be studied at UC.** University of Cincinnati researchers will use a \$1.3 million Department of Defense grant to look for a new way to kill the bugs most likely to be used in biological weapons. Researchers will use the three-year grant to try to create a self-contained compound that would counteract biological bombs made of anthrax or other dangerous microorganisms. The compound would be released into the air immediately after a biological weapon is triggered, the lead researcher and director of UC's Center for Health-Related Aerosol Studies said. Aerosolized anthrax, a likely suspect in bioterrorism scenarios, is particularly hard to kill, he said. It can survive quick bursts of high heat, like those that would occur with a conventional explosion, and the force of the explosion itself would likely spread the lethal bacteria further. His team will explore the effectiveness of a new technique in which specially engineered metal pellets would release chemicals known to kill bacteria and viruses. The pellets, which deliver high bursts of heat energy for a sustained period of time, would release chemicals like iodine.  
Source: <http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080529/NEWS01/805290385/1056/COL02>
36. *May 28, News Medical* – (International) **Is shipping spreading disease?** When the water is pumped out of ship ballasts, invasive species could be released into new environments. Disease-causing microbes could also be released, posing a risk to public health, according to an article in the May issue of Microbiology Today. Ships pump water in and out of ballast tanks to adjust the waterline and compensate for cargo loading. These tanks can hold thousands of tons of water. "Any organisms in the water are likely to be released when it is next pumped out," said a professor at Old Dominion University in Virginia. Many non-native animals and plants have been taken to new environments and become invasive, threatening the survival of local species; some fundamentally alter the ecosystem. The majority of these microbes are harmless, but some are a potential risk to public health. "Vibrio cholerae, which causes cholera in

humans, can be carried in ballast tanks,” the professor said. “There have been no known outbreaks of disease associated with ballasting activities, but the water is only sampled very rarely.” Other disease-causing microbes in tanks include *Cryptosporidium parvum* and *Giardia duodenalis*, which cause stomach upsets.

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=38722>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

37. *May 29, Florida Times-Union* – (Florida) **Courthouse evacuated after Clay County bomb threats.** In Florida, the Clay County courthouse and administration building were evacuated at about 10 a.m. Thursday in response to multiple bomb threats. An unknown female caller told an emergency dispatch center employee there were bombs in the Clay County courthouse and administration building. The Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office Bomb Squad assisted Clay County in its investigation of the threat. A bomb squad K-9 searched the courthouse, but no explosive devices were discovered. The evacuation ended about 2 p.m.

Source: <http://news.jacksonville.com/justin/2008/05/29/clay-courthouse-evacuated-after-bomb-threat/>

38. *May 30, Air Force Times* – (North Dakota) **Minot’s 5th Bomb Wing flunks nuclear inspection.** The Fifth Bomb Wing at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, has failed its much-anticipated defense nuclear surety inspection, according to a Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) report. DTRA inspectors gave the wing an “unsatisfactory” grade Sunday after uncovering many crucial mistakes during the weeklong inspection, which began May 17. They attributed the errors primarily to lack of supervision and leadership among security forces. Security broke down on multiple levels during simulated attacks across the base, including against nuclear weapons storage areas, according to the DTRA report, a copy of which was obtained by Air Force Times. DTRA inspectors gave the wing passing grades in nine of ten areas they examined, including safety and technical operations, but failed it for its nuclear security. Inspectors from Air Combat Command will now return to Minot in August to determine if the necessary improvements have been made.

Source: [http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/05/airforce\\_minot\\_failure\\_053008w/](http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/05/airforce_minot_failure_053008w/)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

39. *May 30, Times Argus* – (Vermont) **Officials: Emergency evacuation drill was a success.** Officials say an emergency evacuation drill at schools around the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant on Wednesday was a success despite a few small glitches. A Vermont State Police Lieutenant said a radio antenna broke during the drill, so planners had to use a backup system. The exercise tested the ability of local and state emergency responders to evacuate schools, day care and health care centers in the six towns surrounding Vermont Yankee if an emergency at the plant was to occur. But the

buildings were not actually evacuated. A Vermont Emergency Management spokesman says the state does not see a need to take the 3,500 school children and 1,500 people with special needs to the reception center in Bellows Falls. The state has argued that a full-scale evacuation could result in injuries. Anti-nuclear activists disagree. They say a practice evacuation is needed and would prevent injuries.

Source:

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080530/NEWS02/805300363/1003/NEWS02>

40. *May 28, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **First responders test their alertness at Fort Monmouth disaster drill.** Timely Alert VII, a mass casualty disaster drill involving more than 100 first responders designed to test the response of emergency personnel reacting to a terrorist scenario, took place on Wednesday in Fort Monmouth. The drill simulated a cyanide attack on an awards ceremony.

Source: <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080528/NEWS/80528069>

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## **Information Technology**

41. *May 30, Kansas City infoZine* – (International) **22 suspected computer hackers arrested in France.** According to French media reports, 22 people suspected of running an international hacking gang that broke into business networks in France and overseas were arrested in Paris, southern and central France following a four month investigation involving over 90 members of the police force. The arrested members of the alleged gang are said to be all under 25 years of age, with one reported to be only 13 years old. According to media reports, the gang were members of an internet forum of some 200 hackers where they were seen bragging about their “successes”. Police have said that it is not clear at the moment what the motivation for the hacking was, although some data was reportedly destroyed on company networks. If found guilty of destroying data and degrading network performance in affected companies the hackers could face a maximum of five years in jail. “One of the disturbing facts about this story is that 16 of the 22 people arrested are under 18 years old,” said a senior technology consultant for Sophos, an internet and computer security firm. According to official statements, 34 businesses in France, Iceland and Russia were allegedly affected by the hacking, but at present only seven firms have registered a formal complaint.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/28650/>

42. *May 29, Computerworld* – (National) **Apple patches 40 Mac OS X security bugs.** Apple Inc. Wednesday patched 40 security vulnerabilities in more than 25 different components and applications bundled with Mac OS X, including Flash Player, iCal and Apache. The year’s third update fixed fewer than half as many flaws as the previous collection, which Apple issued two months ago to plug nearly 90 holes. Apple tagged 16 of the 40 patches in Wednesday’s update with its “arbitrary code execution” phrasing, putting them into the category most vendors would label “critical.” According to the Security Update 2008-003 advisory, the most-patched components by vulnerability count were Apple’s version of the Apache open-source Web server (eight bugs fixed)



and the version of Adobe's Flash Player that in Mac OS X (seven flaws patched).

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9090738&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9090738&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

## 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

43. *May 29, Tampa Bay Business Journal* – (Florida) **Verizon Wireless hurricane readiness includes \$20M area investment.** Verizon Wireless has invested more than \$150 million in Florida to strengthen and enhance its wireless network since the start of hurricane season in 2007. The enhancements include a \$20 million investment in its Tampa Bay switching facility, which doubles its traffic capacity and backup power redundancies, a release said. The facility is designed to withstand a Category 5 hurricane and will serve as the region's emergency operations center if a storm hits. In the past year, the company built nearly 100 new digital cell sites, of which roughly 85 percent have on-site generators and expanded fuel tanks. The company has expanded its highest-speed digital network and completed a 35-foot, \$150,000 Disaster Response Trailer mobile customer service unit. For the 2008 season, the company revised its comprehensive emergency response plan, including the preparation of emergency command centers across Florida in the case of a storm or other crisis. The new technologies, facilities and other network-strengthening efforts are part of an investment exceeding \$1.7 billion in the state over the past eight years, the release said. Nationally, in that time period, Verizon Wireless has spent about \$45 billion to enhance its digital wireless network.

Source: <http://washington.bizjournals.com/tampabay/stories/2008/05/26/daily22.html>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

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## National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

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## **Dams Sector**

44. *May 29, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Feds: Outside experts to review seeping La. levee.** Outside experts will review work at a canal where one of the New Orleans area's worst levee breaks occurred during Hurricane Katrina, and where water is seeping through the mushy ground despite \$22 million in repairs, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Thursday. Outside experts have told the Associated Press that the type of seepage spotted at the 17th Street Canal in the Lakeview neighborhood afflicts other New Orleans levees and could cause some to collapse if water in the canals gets within a foot of Katrina's seven-foot levels. The repairs included driving interlocking sheets of metal 60 feet into the ground, 43 feet deeper than before the storm. However, there is evidence that canal water is seeping through the joints. The Corps has defended its work, but also has been digging a trench to find the precise source of wet spots inside the levees.

Source:

[http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h3sOEKeZ8NOfgF\\_9hLVMXa74ezkgD90VL2781](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h3sOEKeZ8NOfgF_9hLVMXa74ezkgD90VL2781)

45. *May 29, Lexington Herald-Leader* – (Kentucky) **Work resumes on new Dam No. 9.** After a winter break, work has resumed on replacing the century-old dam that holds Lexington's water supply. The new Dam No. 9 at Valley View is a little more than half completed, the executive director of the Kentucky River Authority said Thursday. Work on the \$14.7 million dam began early last year. It will be a row of eight steel cylinders, each 52 feet in diameter, set in front of the existing dam. Five cylinders have been completed. The dam is expected to be completed late this year or early in 2009.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/779/story/419072.html>

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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 Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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