United Press International reports that a recently completed 16-year U.S. ground water study shows statistically significant increases in concentrations of nitrates in seven of 24 well networks. (See item 31)

According to Reuters, a Government Accountability Office report says that the U.S. military began moving its Cold War command center from deep inside Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado, without fully analyzing potential security threats posed by the relocation. (See item 35)

**Energy Sector**

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels:** Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED


1. *September 18, Associated Press* – (National) **Hurricane Ike destroys 49 oil platforms in Gulf.** At least 49 offshore oil platforms, all with production of less than 1,000 barrels a day, were destroyed by Hurricane Ike as it raced across the Gulf of Mexico, and some may not be rebuilt, the U.S. Interior Department said Thursday. It said in the latest hurricane damage assessment that the platforms altogether accounted for 13,000 barrels of oil and 84 million cubic feet of natural gas a day. There are more than 3,800 production platforms in the Gulf producing 1.3 million barrels of oil and seven billion cubic feet of gas each day. Most remain shut down. The report by Interior’s Minerals Management Service (MMS) said the agency was conducting helicopter flyovers of the
Gulf waters to investigate unconfirmed reports of oil spills and oil sheens, but that it was too early to issue any definitive findings. The agency also said five gas transmission pipeline systems sustained damage, although the extent of damage is not yet known. It earlier had reported four oil drilling rigs had been destroyed and another damaged. The U.S. Energy Department (DOE) reported that 12 of 31 refineries in Texas and Louisiana remained shut down. A number of the others are operating at reduced runs. About 93 percent of the Gulf’s crude oil production remains shut down as does 77.6 percent of its natural gas production, said MMS. DOE said 10 of 39 natural gas processing facilities also were still closed as a result of Hurricane Ike and Hurricane Gustav.

Source:
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iegCzko2qT3cUFfD__XPxPGVOMwgdD939CVL80

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**Chemical Industry Sector**

2. **September 19, Reuters** – (Texas) **Bayer, Lanxess declare force majeure in Texas.** On Friday, German chemical makers Bayer and Lanxess declared force majeure on parts of their chemicals and plastics production in Texas, citing damage from Hurricane Ike. Four U.S. chemical companies on Thursday declared forces majeures due to disruptions of raw material supply and storm damage in the Gulf Coast region following Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Rohm and Haas Co., DuPont, PolyOne Corp., and Olin Corp. all declared forces majeures on production from certain facilities that make a range of chemicals used in the manufacture of paints, packaging, adhesives, textiles, aluminum, and automobiles.

Sources:
http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSLJ463620080919 and
http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1852274320080918?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0

3. **September 18, Associated Press** – (Iowa) **Static caused Barton Solvents explosion.** A report released Thursday shows that a spark from static electricity caused a fire and explosion that destroyed a chemical warehouse in Des Moines last year. The report by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board said the static electricity was the result of inadequate electrical bonding and grounding as workers at Barton Solvents filled a portable steel tank. The October 29 fire and explosion shot barrels into the sky and caused minor injuries to one employee. A worker was filling a steel tank with the flammable liquid ethyl acetate and had secured the fill nozzle when he walked away. He heard a popping noise and turned to see the tank engulfed in flames. “The investigation found the nozzle and hose were not intended for use in transferring flammable liquids,” said a safety board investigator. He said it was determined that the plastic fill nozzle and hose were not bonded and grounded. “Static electricity likely accumulated on these parts and sparked to the stainless steel (tank), igniting the vapor that accumulated around the opening of the (tank) during filling,” he said. The report noted that the area where the explosion occurred did not have an automatic sprinkler system. It also found that the
area was adjacent to a flammable storage warehouse and that the wall separating the two was not fire rated. The president of Barton Solvents said changes have been made to avoid future problems.


Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. **September 19, Mid-Hudson News** – (New York) **Indian Point to conduct security exercises.** Entergy officials will be conducting a “force on force” drill at the Indian Point nuclear power plant where their security teams guarding the plant will be “attacked,” and using a laser system connected to a central computer, they will grade the responses. An Indian Point spokesman said they have been conducting the drills annually in recent years. “After 9/11, Entergy was one of the first nuclear power companies to work with the NRC to do these force on force training, and recently we began this training once a year,” he said. The annual training lasts four days. The computerized system uses laser “bullets” and vests with laser-detection equipment, and duplicates the effects, including the sound, of live ammunition. The movement and shooting accuracy of the security officers and other exercise data are collected by the computer for analysis. Entergy’s Indian Point security plan has been praised by security experts including from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Office of Homeland Security, and New York State Office of Public Security.

Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/September08/19/IP_force_drill-19Sep08.htm

5. **September 19, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission** – (Minnesota) **NRC begins special inspection at Monticello nuclear plant due to equipment problems.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is conducting a special inspection at the Monticello Nuclear Power Station to review equipment problems associated with an unplanned reactor shutdown. On September 11, 2008, the Monticello Plant tripped as a result of a transformer failure that led to loss of off-site power to some plant equipment. After the trip, the plant experienced other equipment problems involving safety-related systems. The special inspection will also evaluate equipment problems that occurred on September 17, when the Monticello Plant declared an unusual event after a contract employee was fatally injured when he came into contact with a high-voltage power line outside of the plant gates. This led to an interruption of power to some plant equipment. The power interruption caused a system designed to cool the reactor while it is shut down to become unavailable. The three person special inspection team will establish the sequence of events during the September 11 trip and the September 17 unusual event; review the equipment problems associated with both incidents; conduct an independent review of actions and responses of plant operators; and review the utility’s response to the situation and the company’s corrective actions.

6. **September 19, Associated Press** – (Vermont) **More problems found in Vermont Yankee’s cooling towers.** Inspectors have found more problems with Vermont Yankee’s cooling towers while investigating water leaks of more than 60 gallons a minute discovered earlier in the week. Officials said Thursday that additional degraded support beams were discovered in the nuclear plant’s east cooling tower. A total of five cracked or broken columns have been found since leaks were discovered Tuesday night, said a spokesman for Vermont Yankee owner Entergy Nuclear. Two of the five beams have already been replaced, he said. The leaks, which were attributed to faulty packing in pipe joints, have been repacked, he said. He and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission have said the leaks are not considered key to plant safety.


7. **September 19, Press of Atlantic City** – (New Jersey) **Hearing addresses planned analysis of Oyster Creek N-plant’s drywell liner.** A public hearing on a three-dimensional analysis of the controversial drywell liner at Oyster Creek Generating Station was held Thursday. A drywell liner is designed to contain steam in the event of an accident and send it to be condensed and cooled into water that also must be contained. The Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB) ruled earlier this year that, based on a previous analysis of the corrosion in the drywell liner, the plant could operate another 20 years. However, a judge recommended that a three-dimensional analysis of the drywell liner be performed to determine the level of corrosion with absolute certainty. No date has been announced for the three-dimensional analysis, but AmerGen, which owns the 38-year-old plant, must provide the results before April, when Oyster Creek’s license is set to expire. Thursday’s public hearing was to address an appeal from multiple citizens groups who felt that the previous analysis was not thorough enough in determining corrosion levels. They argued that the numbers were based on averages and that AmerGen was not looking at the areas in the drywell liner with the most corrosion. The ASLB chairman said the board expects to make any further rulings based on Thursday’s hearing in October.


8. **September 19, My Web Times** – (Illinois) **Exelon plans outdoor storage of nuclear waste.** Spent nuclear fuel from the two reactors at Exelon’s La Salle County generating station is to be moved from indoor cooling pools to outdoor “dry casks” no later than 2010. The dry casks, already in use at other reactors, look like small concrete silos lined up on a two-foot thick concrete pad. Within each 180-ton cask’s reinforced concrete exterior is an inner steel shell that will contain 68 old but still radioactive fuel assemblies. The casks are approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. “Our intent is not to store any more than the plant has fuel capacity for,” the station’s government affairs director told the Marseilles City Council Wednesday. The move is necessary because the indoor storage area is nearing capacity and the federal government’s mammoth Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in Nevada is not completed, he said. The dry cask system already has been installed in two other Illinois Exelon plants and will be built soon, he said.

9. *October 2008, National Defense Magazine* – (National) **Night vision technology not meeting troops’ needs.** A Retired Marine Sgt. Maj. shouted at the group of assembled night vision technologists in a voice that would make a drill sergeant wince. He wanted to make a point. And he wanted to make sure everyone heard it: Marines carry four pounds of optical equipment on their rifles and that makes their job difficult. “There is entirely way too much gear on that rifle right now!” he said as veins pulsed underneath his bald pate. There are night vision scopes, laser designators, optics and thermal imagers, he said, who is now a capabilities analyst at the Marine Corps Combat Development Center. He needs it all in one small package, and he needs it right away. He wants night vision scopes that see as far out as the maximum effective range of the weapon, he said at an Institute for Defense and Government Advancement conference. The Marine “doesn’t know if it’s a human being or a refrigerator. That does me no good!” He will have to wait a long time before all those optics are combined into one scope. A very long time a senior vice president and chief technology officer at L3 Electro Optical Systems, said in an interview. The night vision industry is attempting to improve on the relatively simple PVS-14 night vision goggles by combining them with digital images fused with thermal sensors. Overlaying the two images onto a digital viewer will make images pop out, proponents say. Then soldiers and Marines will be able to distinguish better between a refrigerator and a human target. The list of complaints from users is long: goggles have a narrow field of view; they must be focused by hand, which forces soldiers to take their hands off their weapons; they are heavy; and the range falls short of the distance their weapons can effectively fire. Urgent requirements has sped several optical devices mounted onto rifles into the field. Since 2005, the Marine Corps has spent $900 million on 20 new versions of lasers, optics and night vision pieces of equipment.


10. *September 19, Associated Press* – (National) **Military: Malfunction likely caused fatal crash.** A U.S. military official said a mechanical problem appeared to be the reason for a helicopter crash Thursday that killed seven American soldiers in Iraq’s southern desert, the deadliest such incident in Iraq in more than a year. The CH-47 Chinook was flying with three other choppers from Kuwait when it went down shortly after midnight about 60 miles west of Basra, the military said. The U.S. military relies heavily on helicopters to ferry troops, dignitaries and supplies to avoid the threat of ambushes and roadside bombs, and Thursday’s crash highlighted the non-combat dangers facing Americans in Iraq. In all, 70 U.S. helicopters have gone down since the war started in March 2003, according to military figures. Of those, 36 were confirmed to have been shot down.


11. *September 19, Air Force Times* – (National) **How to land a C-17 using night-vision goggles.** An aircrew from McChord Air Force Base, Washington, landed a C-17 on an
ice runway in complete darkness September 11, the first night landing in Antarctica using night-vision goggles. The pilots were guided to the runway by 64 high-intensity retro-reflective cones. The flight was the culmination of 18 months of planning to ensure that the continent can be reached any time of year, including its months of darkness between March and August. The flight was part of Operation Deep Freeze, the mission to provide air and sealift support to the National Science Foundation and U.S. Antarctic Program.


12. September 18, Associated Press – (National) ‘Target malfunction’ halts U.S. missile test. The U.S. military aborted an attempt Wednesday to shoot down an incoming missile with two interceptors after the target malfunctioned shortly after launch off the Hawaiian island of Kauai. It was the first breakdown after five successful tests of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD. Four of the successful test had been conducted with launches from the Pacific Missile Range at Barking Sands and one from White Sands, New Mexico. The Missile Defense Agency said that because of the failure, the two THAAD interceptor missiles that were to take part in the test were not launched. So the full test was never completed.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26768503/

13. September 18, Defense News – (National) U.S. Air Force, Navy agree to share UAV resources. The U.S. Air Force has signed an agreement with the Navy to streamline Global Hawk acquisition. According to a press release from Naval Air Systems Command, the August 28 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) makes development and upgrades to the Global Hawk more efficient because it allows the two services to share resources. The MOA “paves the way for us to share a wide range of data and other information that will help us ensure program effectiveness and help contractors succeed at enhanced quality and on-time delivery,” said a program manager for the Air Force Global Hawk program. “This agreement allows the Navy and Air Force to continue pursuing common objectives across the RQ-4 Enterprise while retaining each Service’s unique missions and operational requirements,” said the program manager for the Navy’s Persistent Maritime Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program Office. The services have flown joint missions, shared parts and other equipment, and, through another formal agreement, conducted testing for Global Hawk Block 10 aircraft. “Now, with the establishment of the RQ-4 as the basis for the [Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Unmanned Aircraft System] program, we look to further advance these synergies to deliver unprecedented capability to the warfighter,” the program manager said.


Banking and Finance Sector

Southland early Thursday, arresting 18 people allegedly engaged in various schemes involving the fraudulent ordering of power wheelchairs, hospital beds, feeding kits, and specialized shoes for diabetics, in what federal prosecutors say was a series of schemes intended to bilk Medicare of more than $33 million. Medicare fraud has been on the rise nationally but is particularly prevalent in Los Angeles and Miami. Clinic owners and medical professionals were among those arrested, authorities said. The arrests were made by the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, a team of federal and state investigators that began operating in the Los Angeles area earlier this year. Since its inception last year, the strike force has indicted 175 people alleged to have billed Medicare for more than half a billion dollars.


15. September 19, CNN Money – (National) **SEC bans shorts for financials.** The ruling comes after the SEC decided Wednesday to ban the practice of so-called “naked” short selling, in which investors short the stock without actually borrowing it. On Thursday, Britain’s Financial Services Authority also temporarily banning short-selling for financial companies. The SEC said it is consulting the FSA in the matter.


16. September 19, CNN Money – (National) **New bailout planned.** The federal government, in what will be its most far-reaching attempt yet to contain the financial crisis, is poised to establish a program to let banks get rid of mortgage-related assets that have been hard to value and harder to trade. Many details of the plan remained unclear, but it is likely the government would take on tens of billions of dollars in mortgage assets - if not more. The announcement is the latest stunning turn in an extraordinary six days that have rocked Wall Street.


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**Transportation Sector**

17. October 2008, National Defense Magazine – (National) **GAO finds covert airport screening tests lacking.** The Government Accountability Office has been watching those who ensure airport screening systems are working properly. The Transportation Security Administration’s office of inspection routinely carries out covert testing at airports throughout the nation. But its procedures and data gathering methods are suspect, GAO said in an unclassified report. Known as “red team testing,” undercover inspectors attempt to pass threat objects such as simulated bombs through airport screening checkpoints. They also try to infiltrate secure areas such as doorways leading to aircraft or the airport perimeter, the report said. The tests are supposed to be used to make recommendations to TSA management. However this data is not being properly compiled, GAO found. “Inspectors did not systematically record specific causes for test
failures related to [transportation security officers], procedures, or screening equipment that did not work properly,” the report said. Without properly recording the reasons for these failures, TSA is limited in its ability to identify and lessen the risk caused by vulnerabilities, the report said. Personnel from the office of inspection countered that they do not record such information on equipment failures because there is a possibility that the threat item was not designed properly. Furthermore, identifying a single cause for a test failure is difficult since they can be caused by multiple factors. TSA testing has not expanded far outside the realm of commercial aviation, the report noted. Further work can be done in rail and bus security, for example. “The agency does not regularly conduct tests in non-aviation modes of transportation,” the report said.

Source: [http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/archive/2008/October/Pages/GAO%20Finds%20Covert%20Airport%20Screening%20Tests%20LackingGAO%20Finds%20Covert%20Airport%20Screening%20Tests%20Lacking.aspx](http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/archive/2008/October/Pages/GAO%20Finds%20Covert%20Airport%20Screening%20Tests%20LackingGAO%20Finds%20Covert%20Airport%20Screening%20Tests%20Lacking.aspx)

18. **September 19, Associated Press** – (California) **Light rail hits bus near L.A., injuring at least 13.** A Metro Blue Line train collided with a bus south of downtown during Friday morning’s commute, injuring at least 13 people, fire officials said. The light rail train was headed to Long Beach carrying passengers while the bus was out of service. As many as two dozen people were hurt, but none of the injuries appeared to be life threatening, a fire department spokesman said. The crash comes one week after a Metrolink commuter train smashed into a freight train in the San Fernando Valley, about 30 miles northwest of downtown, killing 25 people and injuring more than 130.


19. **September 19, Associated Press** – (Missouri) **Mo. scraps private financing for bridge project.** Officials cancelled an innovative plan to fix hundreds of Missouri’s worst bridges, thwarting what was to serve as a national roadmap for quickly renovating aging infrastructure. The plan would have awarded a single contract to finance, design, and build 802 bridges within five years and then maintain them for the next 25 years. The state would have made annual payments to the contractor. The plan was hailed as a potential model for other states and a better alternative for getting repairs done that otherwise would take two decades at Missouri’s current pace. But that was before the credit market crisis caused the cost of the bridge project to spike. Though the private contracting teams offered good proposals, “they simply could not overcome the burden of a financial market that has melted down,” said the director of the Missouri Department of Transportation. The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, the board that governs the DOT, instead decided Thursday to issue its own bonds to finance the bridges, which it pledged still would get rebuilt or repaired within five years. Missouri has more bridges in poor condition than all but three other states. Of its 24,024 bridges, nearly 20 percent, or 4,595, are structurally deficient, according to a 2006 Federal Highway Administration report.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080919/ap_on_re_us/missouri_bridges;_ylt=Aj_tC9qw1fTplKtZjNvQT5es0NUP](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080919/ap_on_re_us/missouri_bridges;_ylt=Aj_tC9qw1fTplKtZjNvQT5es0NUP)
20. September 19, Reuters – (National) **GM recalls 42,408 Saturn Vues.** General Motors Corp. is recalling about 42,408 Saturn Vue compact SUVs built from February to July due to a potential leak of power steering fluid that could cause a fire, it said on Friday. GM said there had been no reports of accidents or injuries stemming from a potential loosening of a nut that secures the power steering line to the power steering pump.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080919/us_nm/gm_recall_dc;_ylt=AhL4elSxugXZnIKbjTJLeNms0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080919/us_nm/gm_recall_dc;_ylt=AhL4elSxugXZnIKbjTJLeNms0NUE)

21. September 18, Associated Press – (Illinois) **Chicago could need new or expanded airport.** A new Chicago airport or a vast expansion of one of the city’s existing airports will be necessary to keep pace with booming demand for air travel in the coming decades, the head of the Federal Aviation Administration said. That is in addition to an ongoing $15 billion expansion of O’Hare International Airport, the FAA’s acting administrator told the Associated Press on Wednesday. Chicago plays too vital a role as an aviation hub not to further upgrade airport capacity, the administrator said, adding that he appreciated the fierce resistance such projects can generate, including from residents worried about noise and air pollution.


22. September 18, Idaho Statesman – (Idaho) **Idaho highway projects could fall victim to tough times.** Worries about the economy and dwindling federal highway spending, along with delays on a North Idaho project, prompted the Idaho Transportation Board on Wednesday to slash the amount of money it hopes to borrow in 2009 to pay for ambitious Idaho highway projects. The board voted to cut $174 million from its planned road request for 2009 financed with bonds backed by federal highway payments. Instead of asking lawmakers to approve $299 million in new debt as long planned, the board will seek $125 million. Most of the projects on Interstate 84, which account for half of the $998 million program, are either on or ahead of schedule and appear likely to be completed. But some work and right-of-way acquisitions would be delayed under the board’s proposal.


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**Postal and Shipping Sector**

23. September 19, WSIL 3 Carterville – (Illinois) **Haz-Mat Scare in Pulaski County.** 18 people were quarantined Wednesday after employees at Crain Enterprises found several bags of white powder in a shipment from China. Emergency and haz-mat crews from around the region spent all day at the scene in Mound City, Illinois, investigating. Wednesday evening those 18 people were released after eight hours in isolation. Crain Enterprises has been doing business with this company in China for years, and this is the first time it has ever received anything suspicious in the crates. The company in China says the bags are full of lime and that it is a common product in China. Emergency crews say tests on the materials came back inconclusive. So just to be on the safe side they are taking extra precautions. Those different measures include sending the
materials up to a lab in Springfield.

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**Agriculture and Food Sector**

24. *September 19, Australian Broadcasting Corporation* – (National) **US food and drug body demands genetic engineering details.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued long-awaited guidelines for genetic engineering of animals used for food, drugs or medical devices produced or imported to the U.S. The FDA proposes to ask biotech firms to identify the molecular snippets of DNA they insert into animals, where it lands in the genes, and whether it is passed unaltered onto subsequent generations. The agency also wants to know how the alterations affect the animal’s health, behavior or nutritional value, and how companies will segregate bio-engineered from non-genetically altered animals. Bio-engineered salmon, pigs, cows and goats are being developed for greater disease resistance, faster growth, or greater nutrition, while others are being bred to make medically-useful hormones or antibodies. Food from the animals won’t have to be labeled, unless their nutritional content is changed. The regulatory guidelines could become final after a 60-day comment period.
Source: http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200809/s2368915.htm

25. *September 18, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Farm owners vow to fire pig abusers.** The operators of a farm where workers were secretly videotaped abusing pigs said Thursday they were launching an investigation and those responsible would be fired. MowMar LLP of Fairmont, Minnesota, said in a statement that it is “surprised and outraged” by the actions captured this summer in undercover video by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). The farm, about 60 miles west of Des Moines, is a supplier to Hormel Foods of Austin, Minnesota, the maker of Spam and other products. MowMar officials said they met early Thursday with PETA officials to talk about what the company planned to do to correct the situation. The company said it would also bring in an animal-handling expert to review procedures at the farm and might install video-monitoring equipment to oversee future treatment of animals.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26779594/

26. *September 18, Salinas Californian* – (California) **Sea Mist Farms evacuated after suspicious suitcase prompts bomb scare.** Authorities evacuated Sea Mist Farms in Castroville on Thursday morning after a suspicious suitcase was found outside the facility, the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office said. When the operations manager at Sea Mist, approached the suitcase, which had been left near a couple of picnic tables in front of the building, an unidentified truck driver appeared and told him that a suspicious man wearing a turban and full beard had been adding and removing items from the suitcase earlier that morning, the Sheriff’s Office said. Because the outdoor dining area is within Sea Mist’s fenced-in compound – and about 20 feet from the facility – the manager decided to call the Sheriff’s Office, deputies said. Deputies set up a perimeter, evacuated the facility and called in the bomb squad, which “disrupted” the suitcase remotely with its bomb squad robot. The suitcase was empty.
27. **September 18, Capital Press** – (California) **USDA yanks states’s TB-free status.** California is losing its bovine tuberculosis-free status and anyone shipping beef or dairy cattle out of California now must deal with the repercussions. According to the USDA, the change in the state’s status was to become official on Thursday, September 18. At press time Wednesday, the status was to be downgraded to “modified accredited advanced,” meaning breeding animals being moved out of state must have tested clean within the past 60 days. The exceptions are cattle headed to feedlots or slaughter. The California Cattlemen’s Association had sought exemptions for beef cattle coming from areas not linked to the tuberculosis outbreak. Matt Byrne, spokesman for the association, said Wednesday, Sept. 17, he didn’t think they would win that exemption. About 200,000 head of dairy cattle still need to be tested and until that is completed, Byrne said he does not expect any changes in status for beef cattle. In 2007, California had 700,000 head of beef cattle and 1.7 million head of dairy cows. According to California Department of Food and Agriculture, their disease control experts are working with USDA to evaluate a regional plan that will allow the remainder of California to return to TB-free status and conduct business as usual. Last week, New Mexico also lost its bovine tuberculosis-free status.


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**Water Sector**

28. **September 19, Los Angeles Times** – (California) **EPA must limit builders’ water pollution.** The Environmental Protection Agency is obliged by the Clean Water Act to protect the nation’s waterways, beaches, and drinking water from pollution caused by real estate development and should set standards for limiting construction runoff by the end of next year, a federal appeals court ruled Thursday. A further appeal is possible, but environmentalists applauded the decision, saying it was likely to spur the EPA to take steps to ensure that development of shopping malls, housing subdivisions, and other construction does not lead to beach closures, waterborne diseases, flooding, fish deaths, or contaminated drinking water.


29. **September 19, Concord Monitor** – (New Hampshire) **Judge: State right to sue oil companies jointly.** The state is right to regard itself as the steward of New Hampshire’s water resources and to jointly accuse a group of oil companies of polluting that water with gas additive methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, according to a ruling from a Merrimack Superior Court Judge. In the state’s biggest-ever environmental case, the attorney general’s office is suing producers of MTBE and gasoline containing the
additive, saying they should foot the bill for cleaning the thousands of wells and drinking water supplies across the state into which the chemical has seeped, in some cases making the water undrinkable. The state had argued that that was impossible to determine because MTBE from different producers was commingled and because it travels quickly through groundwater, making it difficult to trace contamination to an exact source.


30. September 18, Associated Press – (Illinois) **Elevated arsenic levels found in school’s water.** The Kane County, Illinois, Health Department reports that elevated arsenic levels have been found in the water supply of Hinckley-Big Rock Middle School. The health department reported Thursday that laboratory results from three separate tests found arsenic at concentrations greater than government standards for drinking water. When the results became known, the district began working with the health department to address the issue.


31. September 18, United Press International – (National) **Study shows nitrate up in U.S. groundwater.** A recently completed 16-year U.S. ground water study shows statistically significant increases in concentrations of nitrates in seven of 24 well networks. Nitrate is the most common chemical contaminant in the world’s ground water, scientists said. Nitrate in drinking water of the United States is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of health concerns related to infant health and possible cancer risks. “This study highlights the importance of maintaining long-term ground water monitoring programs in the nation, because sustained monitoring provides critical information on changes of our nation’s ground water quality, and whether pollution prevention programs are effective in protecting this nation’s ground water,” said a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.


**Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

32. September 19, Associated Press – (Louisiana) **C-130s spray for mosquitoes after hurricane.** Air Force C-130s will start flying low Friday over south Louisiana to spray for mosquitoes hatched in floodwaters left by the storm surge from Hurricane Ike. “Spraying will pose no threat to humans, animals or plants, but will be significant enough to kill mosquitoes and filth flies, which pose a potential health threat,” the health department said. The C-130 spraying is available to parishes affected by storm surge from Hurricane Ike.

33. *September 18, USA Today* – (Texas) ‘It’s a public health emergency’. The Texas public health commission has warned of a public health crisis if post-hurricane conditions persist. The University of Texas Medical Branch, a major hospital with a trauma center in Galveston, is closed because of water and wind damage. Health officials already are seeing a flood of hurricane-related injuries and illnesses. Memorial Hermann at Texas Medical Center sees 130 patients on an average day. Since the hurricane, the number has surged 30 percent. Most dialysis clinics lack power and remain closed, forcing patients to seek care at the ER or even relocate to a special shelter in Dallas.


**Government Facilities Sector**

34. *September 18, WNBC 4 New York* – (New York) **Backpack with small explosive left near N.Y. federal courthouse.** A laid off construction worker left a backpack near Manhattan’s federal court with an explosive device inside, law enforcement officials said Thursday. Investigators said the device was made up of two bottles that contained a “low explosive mixture.” U.S. Marshals and FBI agents arrested the suspect for allegedly leaving the explosive near the U.S. District Courthouse and the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Officials said the incident does not appear to be terror related.


35. *September 18, Reuters* – (Colorado) **Report faults U.S. move of Cheyenne command center.** The U.S. military began moving its Cold War command center from deep inside Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado, without fully analyzing potential security threats posed by the relocation, a report said on Thursday. The Government Accountability Office, a nonpartisan arm of Congress, said in the report that a legally mandated Defense Department report to lawmakers failed to include key threats involved in the move and understated other security issues. The threats in question were contained in a classified version of the GAO report. Military officials said the relocation, which began earlier this year, would better consolidate defense operations and allow commanders to respond more swiftly to crises or attacks. While the move is still under way, GAO said operations began at the new combined command center on May 29. The Pentagon initially told the GAO in comments dated June 3 that it did not concur with a report recommendation calling for a full-spectrum reevaluation of security vulnerabilities associated with the relocation. But the Defense Department reversed itself less than a month later and said the security review was being undertaken, according to GAO.


**Emergency Services Sector**

regional emergency providers, conducted a mock exercise today in southwest Detroit Friday. “Regional Response 2008” is being dubbed one of the most comprehensive emergency preparedness exercises ever performed in the United States. The all-day exercise tested the ability of fire, police, and public safety personnel to coordinate, mobilize, and offer help in a timely manner. It also included an overnight stay at designated local shelters. Neighboring cities and counties activated their Emergency Operations Centers during this drill. And nearly 60 hospitals in the Region 2 South and 2 North Medical Bio-Defense Network will take part in testing and exercising their medical response plans to mass disaster. Various businesses, schools and law enforcement agencies also participated. In Detroit, the Water and Sewerage Department staff simulated a chlorine leak at the wastewater treatment plant, while nearby Marathon Oil will have a live burn at their training facility.

Source: [http://www.wwj.com/Massive-Disaster-Drill-Under-Way/2989510](http://www.wwj.com/Massive-Disaster-Drill-Under-Way/2989510)

37. **September 18, ABC News** – (Illinois) **FEMA says no to ice for hurricane survivors.** Hurricane survivors are being put at risk in Texas and other hot weather states because the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is no longer providing ice in relief situations, say watchdogs, relief workers, and local leaders in Hurricane Alley. Instead, individual states and local governments are now tasked with purchasing, delivering, and storing ice, even though they face tough logistical challenges in doing so, according to critics of the new policy. “FEMA is effectively saying we can’t guarantee you ice,” said the director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Besides preserving food when electricity is out, ice is essential in maintaining temperature-sensitive medication and feeding formulas and keeping people cool in the aftermath of disaster, relief and support workers say. FEMA says it instituted its new policy in July 2007, although those in disaster relief circles widely point to the National Hurricane Conference in Florida in April as the announcement of the change.


38. **September 18, Los Angeles Times** – (California) **LAPD unveils new tipster tool: anonymous text messages.** Los Angeles Police Chief William J. Bratton on Wednesday unveiled a new system allowing people to provide anonymous crime tips to police through text messages and the department’s website. Bratton said he hoped the new technology, which protects the sender’s identity, would generate more crime tips to the LAPD from the public. “Far too often, victims and witnesses are too afraid to come forward out of fear of retaliation. Today, we’re changing that,” said the L.A. Mayor who appeared at a news conference with Bratton. Villaraigosa demonstrated the new text message system, sending an anonymous message from a cellphone saying he had witnessed a robbery and that the suspect had entered a grocery store at 8th Street and Broadway. After sending the message, the mayor received a reply assigning him an alias, which he could use to contact police and provide additional information. Messages from tipsters are delivered to the Los Angeles Police Department’s Regional Crime Center, the agency’s information hub for daily operations through which tips are relayed to detectives and patrol officers in the field. The system also allows officers to communicate with the anonymous sender via text messages, according to LAPD Capt. Joel Justice. Justice said the text message system was already used by police in New York, Boston and San Diego.
39. **September 18, eWeek – (Texas) Malware poses as iPhone game.** Malware writers are spamming e-mails with a file posing as a popular iPhone video game, according to researchers at Sophos. In fact, the file contains a Trojan, which ironically only runs on Microsoft Windows. Still, Sophos said the Trojan can potentially allow a hacker to take over an infected PC. The Trojan, identified by Sophos as Troj/Agent-HNY, is being spread via e-mail as an attachment dubbed Penguin.Panic.zip after the popular “Penguin Panic” game for the iPhone. Hoping to snare unsuspecting video game fans, the spam e-mails contain subject lines such as “Virtual iPhone games!” and “Apple: The most popular game!” “It’s your bog-standard malicious Trojan horse, designed to hand control of the compromised computer over to a third-party hacker,” said the senior technology consultant at Sophos. “That hacker can then take over the compromised PC to download further malware, or launch spam campaigns, install spyware to steal your identity or launch a distributed denial-of-service attack. Because so many Trojan horses these days download additional code from the Internet, hackers can change the ultimate payload at anytime they wish–they just update the file which the Trojan tries to download.”


40. **September 18, IDG News Service – (National) Web proxy firm working with FBI to trace Palin e-mail hacker.** The Webmaster of a proxy service called Ctunnel.com, which may have been used by a hacker to illegally access the e-mail account of the Republican vice presidential candidate is working with law enforcement authorities to track down the person behind the break-in. The Webmaster of Ctunnel said Thursday that URLs in screenshots of the candidate’s e-mail suggested that whoever accessed her Yahoo! account had used his proxy service. He said in an interview that he was contacted by FBI officials last night and asked to retain computer logs of the last few days’ activity on his service and make sure nothing is deleted. He said he is reasonably confident he can help authorities sift through the logs and trace access back to the originating IP address -- especially because the self-professed hacker has admitted using just one proxy service to access the account. The alleged hacker said in an online posting that he gained access by simply resetting the password to the candidate’s Yahoo! e-mail account using its password recovery service. That’s according to a description of events posted on a blog site run by a conservative syndicated columnist.

Source: [http://news.idg.no/cw/art.cfm?id=7751F64A-17A4-0F78-315184831E06F39E](http://news.idg.no/cw/art.cfm?id=7751F64A-17A4-0F78-315184831E06F39E)

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**Internet Alert Dashboard**

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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/](https://www.it-isac.org/)
Communications Sector

41. September 19, Los Angeles Times – (California) Rate increase OKd for land-line phone service in California. The California Public Utilities Commission voted Thursday to approve price increases beginning in January 2009 for the four major phone companies, including AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc., that offer land-line service. Another increase can go into effect a year later. The PUC has deregulated most aspects of California phone services and was expected to deregulate it all next year. Instead, the commission opted to maintain a cap on local land-line rates for two more years.

Commercial Facilities Sector

42. September 18, Associated Press – (Florida) Orlando, Fla., homes built atop WWII bombing range. Residents of several neighborhoods near Orlando International Airport recently learned their 8-year-old developments were built on a World War II bombing range that was not thoroughly cleared. Since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began sweeping the Orlando neighborhoods a year ago, they have found more than 200 munitions and other potentially volatile remnants. Most were recovered on the grounds of a middle school, including one lodged beneath the landing pit for the long jump. The Corps says it’s extremely unlikely any of the buried munitions would detonate, but the value of the homes has dropped by at least a third, residents say. The developers, homebuilders, Corps, and local government officials who zoned the land all blame each other. Corps officials say they long ago told local governments about the bombs, but current officials say their records were stripped of the information.
Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gha-O7UwnjnscKXB3ZtZqfaIPCAD938LVCO0

43. September 18, FOX News – (California) Daniel Andreas San Diego for eco-terror bombings. Before dawn on August 28, 2003, two homemade pipe bombs went off at the headquarters of Chiron Corporation, a biotechnology firm based in Emeryville, California. The second blast was time-delayed; the FBI suspects that may have been a tactic to harm emergency teams responding to the blast. A month later, on September 26, the same suspect struck again, authorities say, this time leaving a bomb strapped with nails at the Pleasanton, California, headquarters of Shaklee Corporation, which makes eco-friendly products like vitamins and shampoos. The FBI says the suspect targeted Chiron and Shaklee for their ties to Huntingdon Life Sciences, a British-based research firm that performs laboratory testing on animals. The blasts caused damage to the buildings, but no people were hurt. Before the bombings, an animal rights group
called Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty had been targeting Chiron and its employees with a wave of intimidation tactics meant to terrorize workers and drive the company out of business. A federal arrest warrant was issued for the suspect in 2003, charging him with maliciously damaging and destroying buildings and other property with the bombs he allegedly constructed.
Source: http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,424762,00.html

National Monuments & Icons Sector

44. September 18, Washington Post – (Washington) **Despite concerns, design of MLK Memorial approved.** A powerful federal arts commission this morning approved the overall design of the planned Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial near the Mall, but several commission members still were critical of the mammoth sculpture of the civil rights leader that is the memorial’s centerpiece. The memorial’s creators agreed to submit further details of the sculpture to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts for review but said the commission’s approval allows them to proceed with the project. They said they planned to apply to the Interior Department for building permits next week. The vote by the commission, which is required by law, appeared to clear the way for construction of the $120 million crescent-shaped memorial on the northwest shore of the Tidal Basin near the FDR Memorial. 
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/18/AR2008091801956.html

45. September 18, Visalia Times-Delta – (California) **Sequoia park wildfire continues to grow.** A lightning-sparked wildfire burning for more than a week in Sequoia National Park continues to grow in size, fire officials reported this morning. The so-called Hidden Fire, started by a thunderstorm on September 10 near Hidden Springs, 12 miles from Three Rivers and north of Ash Mountain, had burned 804 acres as of 8 a.m. this morning. The fire was 30 percent contained, officials reported. More than 370 firefighters and 8 helicopters were assigned to the blaze, which is burning around 6,000 feet in dry and steep mixed-conifer forest, officials said. The fire is moving predominantly south and east, toward Cave Creek and Generals Highway, where firefighters are building containment lines today, officials reported. Although a slow-moving fire, with daily outward growth at about 500 feet in all directions, the blaze is expected to grow to several thousand acres, and possibly as large as 5,000 acres, officials said.

Dams Sector

46. September 19, Associated Press – (Texas) **Perry issues disaster declaration for**
Presidio Co.  By midday Thursday, Presidio County, Texas, officials said a levee had failed and emergency plans to build the makeshift dam along the railroad line abutting the levee were implemented. The hope, the Presidio County attorney said, is to keep the rising waters from reaching populated areas of the city. But he acknowledged that another levee break, which he called “probable,” would render the work all but pointless. The flooding situation prompted the Texas governor to issue a disaster declaration Thursday night. He also asked for a presidential disaster declaration for Presidio County. “This situation poses an immediate danger to the residents of Presidio,” the governor said in a statement. In Ojinaga, Mexico, hundreds of homes were flooded after Rio Conches jumped its banks and the “El Granero” dam overflowed, said the director of the Chihuahua state Civil Protection. The Presidio County attorney said the levee is still in danger and could break at any time. He said Presidio officials asked the governor’s office to contact the U.S. State Department and request that Mexico stop the release of water from the Luis Leon Reservoir. As it stands now, the attorney said he expects the releases to continue for at least another week. He said poor river management by Mexican officials has contributed to the flooding.


47. September 18, Associated Press – (Oregon) Klamath Dam protesters rally in Portland. In Oregon, more than 100 people urged PacifiCorp Thursday to remove four dams on the Klamath River. The protest included a march and a rally outside the utility’s headquarters in Portland. It was organized by tribes native to the Klamath Basin, commercial fishermen, and conservationists. Organizers said it was the fourth such rally. PacifiCorp says it is negotiating with state and federal officials on a resolution that could transfer ownership of the dams and lead to the removal of the dams.


48. September 18, Lake Expo – (Missouri) Bagnell and Truman Dam to conduct joint preparedness exercise today. Bagnell Dam at Missouri’s Lake of the Ozarks and Harry S. Truman Dam at Truman Reservoir will conduct a joint preparedness exercise September 17 to test procedures, communications, and coordination among government and non-government entities in the event of a catastrophic incident that could impact two individual dams on the same river basin. The 2008 Dam Security Exercise Series – Bagnell/Truman will take place at facilities in Jefferson City, the two dams, certain county emergency operations centers, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) District Headquarters in Kansas City, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and USACE facilities in Washington, D.C.

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