



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 November 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- Bloomberg reports that Chevron Corp. suspended export obligations on some Nigerian crude production following a pipeline breach at the Escravos oilfield. (See item [1](#))
- According to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the Bremerton ferry dock in Washington was shut down Tuesday afternoon after a ferry to Seattle received a bomb threat. (See item [14](#))

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. *November 19, Bloomberg* – (International) **Chevron says Nigeria oil link breach may halt exports.** Chevron Corp., the second-largest U.S. oil company, suspended export obligations on some Nigerian production following a pipeline breach at the Escravos oilfield. The force majeure clause, invoked Tuesday after the loss of 90,000 barrels a day last week, will last until December 31, a company spokesman said in an e-mailed statement. “Necessary efforts are ongoing with all relevant stakeholders to evaluate the impact, repair the pipeline and restore production,” the statement said. The pipeline is a joint venture between Chevron and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp., in which Chevron holds a 40 percent stake. That means its share of the affected output amounts to 36,000 barrels a day, according to the statement. The country’s crude industry has suffered this year from militant attacks and oil theft.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=awmH9Ii1p_n4&refer=energy

2. *November 17, Associated Press* – (National) **Electricity industry in a power struggle.** The crisis on Wall Street threatens to stretch the nation’s power supplies to the brink — driving up prices and laying the stage for future shortages. The power industry has faced criticism for blackouts, but it also faces opposition to new plants and stringing new power lines. If credit woes put the brakes on scores of proposed plants, observers say a shift to other, more expensive fuels could end up soaking customers. The alternative is more frequent and potentially extended outages. “We have to have new (power generation) capacity at some point, or we’ll have brownouts, blackouts,” said an economist with Global Insight, a consulting firm. “The problem is, too many (utilities) are betting on delay.” The U.S. Department of Energy had forecast earlier this decade that 36,000 megawatts of new coal-fueled power supply — enough to power an estimated 36 million homes — would come online by 2008. Instead, only about 5,000 megawatts of supply were built, or enough for about 5 million homes. The converging pressures on the industry make the duration of the tight credit market critical to its long-term outlook, said a New York lawyer who advises plant developers on financing. Over at least the next several months, he said everything from coal plants to pipelines to wind farms face an uphill battle to seal deals on debt. He added that could quickly turn around if the markets loosen in the first quarter of 2009.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11000601

3. *November 17, Platts* – (National) **Unconventional gas will soon dominate U.S. production, says report.** Higher gas prices and significant technological advances have led to a dramatic increase in production of unconventional gas resources in recent years, and that trend is expected to continue unabated, according to a study to be released on Monday. By 2020, 69 percent of U.S. gas production and 43 percent of Canadian gas will come from unconventional plays, said the report prepared by energy consultant ICF International. With the tremendous gains in production from tight gas, coalbed methane, and, most significantly, shale gas, this energy supply “is poised to be a very important part of North America’s energy future,” said an ICF analyst. ICF noted that research and investment into unconventional gas has increased significantly in recent years due to the higher price environment. While tight gas figures to remain the dominant category of unconventional gas through the study period of 2007-2020, the “most significant” trend, said ICF, is the “rapid rise” of gas production from shale formations. The report also cautioned that environmental and regulatory issues may dampen unconventional gas production efforts. “These include well and environmental permitting and related costs, land access, water use, and disposal and surface disturbance.” Water use and disposal for fracturing of shale wells has already emerged as a significant issue, ICF observed, “although, to date, water use has not significantly restricted development in most shale areas.”

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/8178095.xml?sub=Natural%20Gas&p=Natural%20Gas/News&?undefined&undefined>

4. *November 17, Reuters* – (California) **California seeks one third renewable power by 2020.** California committed to getting a third of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020 in a Monday executive order by the governor. California already had committed to produce 20 percent of its power from renewables such as wind and solar by 2010 as part of its plan to cut emissions of carbon that contribute to global warming. California’s Air Resources Board had recommended the additional 2020 goal for the state’s so-called renewable portfolio standard, and the state legislature still must pass the goal into law. The executive order requires state agencies to begin preparing for the change. “All retail sellers of electricity shall serve 33 percent of their load with renewable energy by 2020. State government agencies are hereby directed to take all appropriate actions to implement this target in all regulatory proceedings, including siting, permitting, and procurement for renewable energy power plants and transmission lines,” the order said. California’s renewables mandate has sent utilities such as PG&E Corp. and Edison International scrambling to add more renewable power generation, and many new solar power plants and wind farms are currently under construction in the Golden State. The governor also ordered that renewables project regulation be streamlined, for instance allowing multiple applications required for a new plant be filed at once, instead of sequentially.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1753178720081118>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

5. *November 18, KRIV 26 Houston* – (Texas) **Deer Park Plant fire causes brief shelter in place.** A chemical plant fire in Deer Park caused a brief shelter in place for employees and area residents on Tuesday morning. Just after 7 a.m., a furnace at the Occidental Chemical Corporation on Tidal Road caught fire. A company spokeswoman says the fire was internal and quickly contained. No injuries were reported, but a voluntary shelter in place was called for residents immediately north, east, and west of the plant as a precautionary measure. The order was lifted at 9 a.m. The facility is a manufacturer of feed stock for plastics such as PVC piping.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxboston.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7889598&version=4&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *November 19, Reuters* – (South Carolina) **Progress works on SC Robinson 2 reactor turbine.** Progress Energy Inc. was working on a seal on a turbine at nuclear Unit 2 at the Robinson power station in South Carolina, a spokesman said Wednesday. The unit shut November 17 due to high turbine vibration. The company tried to balance the turbine with a weight on November 18, which is why the reactor was operating at 2 percent

power. The spokesman said the unit did not attach to the grid on November 18. The problem is on the non-nuclear turbine side of the plant, adding the turbine vibration is a reliability concern not a safety concern.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1932763220081119>

7. *November 18, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **NRC cites visibility for probe failure.** A special inspection team from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) failed to find five degraded support columns in the only safety-related cell in Vermont Yankee’s cooling towers because inspectors did not have a clear view of the interior of the cell, according to an NRC spokesman. The columns, estimated to be 40 feet tall, were either bowed or cracked and were in the interior of the cooling towers, where inspectors’ views were obscured by louvers that cover the structural timbers but accommodate the trickling and cooling of the water. The NRC sent a special inspection team to Vermont Yankee in July, after the second major leak developed in the plant’s cooling towers. The failure of the special inspection team to find problems in the safety-related cell has prompted the New England Coalition, a Brattleboro-based anti-nuclear group, to plan to file an enforcement petition with the NRC over the failed inspection. A senior technical advisor to the New England Coalition said the coalition also plans to file a formal complaint with the Office of Inspector General regarding the NRC oversight.

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081118/NEWS02/811180329/0/BUSINESS>

8. *November 18, Kalamazoo Gazette* – (Michigan) **Report on trapped Palisades Nuclear Plant workers finds errors had ‘very low safety significance.’** Four errors that were all of “very low safety significance” were identified by investigators looking into how workers became trapped in a containment area at Palisades Nuclear Plant on August 6, a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission report says. Palisades officials have been “taking action to correct” all of the problems, said the communications manager for the nuclear plant near South Haven, Michigan. A report dated November 4 found errors in four areas: failure to implement procedures to control access to the containment area; failure to ensure the escape hatch would operate properly; failure to perform risk assessment correctly for instances when workers must enter the containment area for emergencies or repairs; and failure to ensure emergency escape hatch instructions were accessible from inside containment. The manager said the first corrective action taken by Palisades was implementing a six-week training course for employees on operating doors. Additional communication lines have been placed inside and outside of the containment area, the plant spokesman said, and a system to track when workers enter and leave the containment area has been implemented.

Source:

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/11/report_on_trapped_palisades_nu.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *November 19, EmpireStateNews.Net* – (New York) **Natural gas trader pleads guilty to violating state banking law.** The Manhattan District Attorney announced Tuesday that a former Bank of Montreal (BMO) natural gas trader has pled guilty to intentionally mismarking his trading book, resulting in one of the largest fraud-related trading losses of over \$800 million from a trading desk in Manhattan. A 37-year-old, pled guilty to falsifying BMO's trading records, a violation of New York State's Banking Law. In pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that from May 2003 until April 2007, he intentionally falsified BMO's records relating to the valuation of natural gas derivative contracts. The plea is part of a joint investigation with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation into natural gas trading losses at the Manhattan branch of BMO. As part of the joint investigation, the defendant also pled guilty in United States District Court for the Southern District of New York to conspiracy, wire fraud, making false bank entries, and obstructing a federal regulatory investigation. The United States Attorney's Office also announced the indictment and arrest of a former broker and CEO of Optionable Inc., an energy derivatives brokerage firm in Westchester County, New York.

Source: <http://www.empirestatenews.net/News/20081119-6.html>

10. *November 19, SPAMfighter* – (National) **E-mail scams likely to rise this year, says IRS.** The Internet Revenue Service (IRS) has released a warning that e-mail scams are expected to increase this year because of the economic stimulus package. An IRS Spokesperson said that a new wave of e-mail scams has been noticed that informs recipients about an economic stimulus package or a specific tax refund based on their eligibility, as reported by Daily News Tribune on October 31, 2008. The e-mail also includes the IRS address and encourages recipients to follow the link provided in it for getting the money. The links take users to a page where recipients' personal information is sought, including credit card number and bank account details. Further, some customers of tax service providers got the e-mails pretending to have come from the IRS. These e-mails attract recipients by saying that they are entitled to get \$600 as a part of the economic stimulus package, but the link given in them takes recipients to a fake Web page where information like account details and a social security number are asked to transfer the refund. Though the site does not look like the IRS Website, these e-mails come from IRS reply-at e-mail, so they look legitimate.

Source: <http://www.spamfighter.com/News-11303-E-mail-Scams-Likely-to-Rise-This-Year-Says-IRS.htm>

11. *November 18, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **FBI probes foreclosure scam targeting Hawaiians.** The FBI is investigating several companies that allegedly bilked Native Hawaiian homeowners out of more than \$300,000 by offering bogus foreclosure rescue bonds. The homeowners were charged between \$2,500 and \$10,000 to attend seminars

or counseling sessions on avoiding foreclosure. They were told they would receive bonds worth \$1 million that could be used to pay off the outstanding balance of the mortgage. Officials said the bonds were bogus and no mortgages were paid off. “These scams have cost homeowners and lending institutions hundreds of thousands of dollars and have led to foreclosure proceedings affecting many families in Hawaii,” said an FBI Special Agent. Several of the companies pushing the bogus bonds claimed to be affiliated with Native Hawaiian sovereignty movements.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jFfM0rqfXARoRCnjBOUOP4nmILMwD94H2V900>

12. *November 17, Hindustan Times and McClatchy-Tribune Information Services* – (Virginia) **Bollywood investor admits to \$33 million fraud in United States.** A high-profile Indian-American businessman has pleaded guilty to mortgage fraud amounting to \$33 million. The 47-year-old owns a company called Financial Mortgage Inc. in Fairfax County, Virginia. The Washington Post described it as the largest mortgage fraud case in Virginia in almost 20 years and among the largest in the country. The paper quoted prosecutors as saying he created bogus mortgage loans and sold legitimate loans to more than one buyer. He faces up to 20 years in prison.

Source: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/2029651/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

13. *November 18, Aviation Week* – (National) **Reining in on runway incursions.** According to the Federal Aviation Administration, of the 370 runway incursions in the U.S. in Fiscal Year 2007, 24 were classified as “serious,” and eight involved commercial aircraft. The remaining 92% were considered “low risk,” and presented no immediate danger. Runway and taxiway incursions can result in huge losses of life and property. According to an internal Honeywell study, which looked at seven taxiway and runway accidents from November 1996 through August 2006, average losses worldwide per year were \$95 million. Incursion risks, especially due to congestion at major airports, are, in fact, causing more airlines to consider Honeywell’s Runway Awareness Advisory System (RAAS), which was introduced in 2003. Out of the approximately 20,000 air transports that can accommodate the system, 200 have been retrofitted, and another 800 packages are on order. In the business jet sector, there have been approximately 1,000 RAAS sales, including installations and units on order, to the operators of 12,000 aircraft. RAAS-compatible aircraft are those incorporating Honeywell’s Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning System (EGPWS) Mark V or Mark VII. RAAS provides pilots with aural warnings by working in tandem with any industry standard GPS receiver, as well as the Honeywell EGPWS database, which includes over 2,000 airports worldwide. The GPS and database working together determine exactly where the aircraft is on a given airport. While slow to take off, the airline market for RAAS may be stirring. In September, Seattle-based Alaska Airlines announced plans to retrofit its entire fleet of 111 Boeing 737-400s and Next Generation 737-700, -800 and -900 models, making it the first airline to install RAAS fleet wide.

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=om&id=news/om1108run.xml

14. *November 18, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington) **Bomb threat closes Bremerton ferry dock.** The Bremerton ferry dock was shut down Tuesday afternoon after a ferry to Seattle received a bomb threat. The crew of the ferry Hyak, which can hold 2,500 passengers and 144 vehicles, received a bomb threats within minutes of sailing for Seattle, said the Coast Guard. The ferry went back to Bremerton and all the passengers disembarked safely. The Coast Guard launched three 25-foot boats from Seattle to provide a safety zone around the dock. Washington State police and the Coast Guard are investigating.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/transportation/388343_ferry19.html

15. *November 17, Packer* – (National) **Logistics leaders agree on need for improved roads.** The need for new and better roads was a hot topic at the annual North America Works conference Nov. 5-7. Trade and logistics leaders from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico gathered to discuss the state of the economic system and its effect on trade, transportation, jobs, and global initiatives. “We must face the reality that the current system is near the end of its lifecycle. We must look at solutions that are environmentally safe and minimize the use and waste of dwindling energy sources,” said an industry CEO. According to a 2007 report from the institute, gridlock of all vehicles in major urban areas results in “a \$78 billion annual drain on the U.S. economy in the form of 4.2 billion lost hours and 2.9 billion gallons of wasted fuel.” The U.S. President-elect identifies several transportation issues on his Web site, identifying railways, highways, bridges, airports, and neighborhood streets as targets for investment and strategic long-term planning. His plan calls for \$60 billion of federal money over 10 years to provide financing to infrastructure projects across the nation.

Source: [http://www.thepacker.com/icms/dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-113239-21.asp&stype=handling\\$dist&fb](http://www.thepacker.com/icms/dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-113239-21.asp&stype=handling$dist&fb)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *November 19, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Man receives probation for bottle bomb.** A federal judge has sentenced a man to one year of probation for helping another man make a homemade explosive that went off in a Powers Lake mailbox. The twenty-one-year-old pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting destruction of letter boxes and mail. He faced a maximum penalty of six months in prison. Authorities say the two men made a plastic bottle bomb using cleaning solution and other materials. The bottle exploded inside the mailbox, destroying mail.

Source: <http://www.kxmc.com/News/299398.asp>

17. *November 18, KTVX 4 Newport* – (Utah) **Suspicious package delivered to LDS seminary building.** A suspicious package delivered to an LDS junior high school seminary building was investigated as a possible threat on November 18. A seminary

instructor reported the package to police because he thought the manila envelope seemed suspicious. It was addressed to the LDS Church. After an on-scene x-ray showed no wiring or explosives in the envelope, it was removed and secured for additional testing. The envelope tested negative for any dangerous substances or chemicals. Police say they treated it as a suspicious package because the address was typed and taped to the envelope, the Syracuse return P.O. Box address did not exist, and it had been mailed to the seminary building from out of state. Authorities found a letter inside the envelope. They describe it as rambling that made no sense. Investigators are working to locate exactly where the package was sent from, and who may have sent it. Source: http://www.abc4.com/mostpopular/story.aspx?content_id=40bbd7a8-8fb5-4730-baef-c4a53a638665

18. *November 18, Los Angeles Daily News* – (California) **\$20,000 reward offered in Lancaster arsenic-laced envelope case.** The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors offered a \$20,000 reward Tuesday for information that leads to a conviction in a case involving a poison-laced envelope that was mailed to a Lancaster child services office. The threatening letter, which had been laced with arsenic, arrived at the Lancaster county Department of Children and Family Services facility November 17. Other threatening letters were also sent to DCFS offices in Chatsworth, Covina, El Monte and Baldwin Hills. Those envelopes did not contain arsenic, said a spokesman for the county Supervisor. Source: http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_11016584

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *November 19, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Lean Cuisine entrees recalled.** Nestle Prepared Foods Co. is recalling three varieties of Lean Cuisine entrees. A recorded message from the company Tuesday said, “Lean Cuisine is taking this action after several consumers recalled finding small pieces of blue plastic material.” Nestle received one report of injury, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said. The Lean Cuisine meals in question are the Pesto Chicken with Bow Tie Pasta, the Chicken Mediterranean, and the Chicken Tuscan. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-nestle19-2008nov19,0,4838086.story>
20. *November 19, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Animal rights group: Video shows turkey abuse.** A video released by an animal rights group on Tuesday claims to show horrific abuse of turkeys at West Virginia farms operated by major global poultry grower Aviagen Inc. The undercover worker, who shot the video, described stifling, dusty barns where the animals were kept and caught video of several workers killing turkeys, slamming them into metal cages, and bragging about previous abuse of the animals. A company official told the New York Times that they “condemn the abuse of any of the animals in our care and will take swift action to address these issues.” They said they would investigate the allegations, which could lead to firing employees who were involved. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27803335/>

21. *November 18, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Restrictions placed on three pesticides deemed harmful to fish.** Federal fisheries biologists today, concluding that three pesticides used throughout the Willamette Valley harm imperiled salmon, ordered sharp new restrictions on use of the chemical compounds. The pesticides — chlorpyrifos, diazinon and malathion — are among the 60 most used in Oregon, with hundreds of thousands of pounds combined spread throughout the state each year. The National Marine Fisheries Service issued a document called a biological opinion today saying the pesticides cannot be spread on the ground within 500 feet of salmon streams or sprayed in the air within 1,000 feet of streams. In addition to the no-spray buffer zones, the Fisheries Service also required a 20-foot band of noncrop plants between areas where pesticides are sprayed and salmon waters. Also, the pesticides cannot be sprayed when wind speeds exceed 10 mph. Biologists say the pesticides have probably contributed to declines of some Northwest salmon stocks and some of the pesticides are also suspected of affecting people.

Source:

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/11/restrictions_placed_on_three_p.html

22. *November 17, NEWSInferno.com* – (National) **Salmonella investigation hindered by performance of FDA, CDC, other agencies.** The poor performance of government regulators who investigated this summer's massive Salmonella outbreak highlighted serious problems with the way produce is regulated in the U.S., a new report says. The report, compiled by the Pew Charitable Trusts' Produce Safety Project, faults federal agencies, including the Food & Drug Administration (FDA), for failing to investigate other produce as a possible source of the Salmonella outbreak sooner, and for maintaining a focus on tomatoes as the culprit for far too long. According to the Produce Safety Project report, the conduct of the Salmonella investigation raises questions about how timely and effectively data was shared between the FDA, the Centers for Disease Control, and various state agencies. Problems in this area may have contributed to a delayed identification of jalapeno and serrano peppers as a vehicle for Salmonella Saintpaul, the report says. It also explains that the Salmonella outbreak shows that the FDA needs to use its existing statutory authorities to establish mandatory and enforceable safety standards for fresh produce.

Source: <http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/4209>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

23. *November 19, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* – (Georgia) **Council OKs Benning expansion for Columbus Water Works.** Columbus Council approved a resolution on November 18 that will allow the Columbus Water Works to proceed with a \$42 million expansion at Fort Benning. Since 2004, the Water Works has been contracted to provide water service to Fort Benning. As the utility prepares for expansion from the Base Realignment and Closure, the Water Works President sought approval to move ahead with plans to build a \$30 million water plant on Fort Benning and more water lines. The

construction will be funded by money Benning pays for the water contract. Construction should take about 18 months with completion of the plant by 2010. The Water Works is permitted by the state to withdraw about 90 million gallons of water daily from the Chattahoochee River. Another permit will be sought to take 18 million gallons daily for the new plant at Fort Benning. An estimated 30,000 soldiers, their families, civilian contractors and other employees are expected in the region as the armor school moves from Fort Knox, Ky., to the local post.

Source: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/story/514384.html>

24. *November 19, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Northern Mariana Islands) **U.S. Govt orders Saipan to fix sewage, water, oil spill systems.** The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency signed and lodged two stipulated orders today seeking to reform and bring into compliance the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s (CUC) wastewater plants and collection systems, public drinking water systems, five power plants and an oil transfer pipeline. The first order requires CUC to comply with its water discharge permits for the Agingan and Sadog Tasi wastewater plants and to implement changes to prevent sewer overflows. It also requires CUC to achieve compliance in its drinking water systems, which currently present a health risk to the public. The orders are designed to ensure lasting compliance through the reformation of CUC's management and operations; the development of a wastewater and drinking water master plan; development of financial plans and the construction of water and wastewater infrastructure.

Source: <http://www.pacificmagazine.net/news/2008/11/19/us-govt-orders-saipan-to-fix-sewage-water-oil-spill-systems->

25. *November 19, news@norman.com* – (North Carolina) **County in violation of state drinking water regulations, but no immediate health concern.** Lincoln County says it is taking immediate action to reduce contaminants in its public water system after being notified by the state that it has violated the North Carolina Drinking Water Act. The state says that the total organic carbon (TOC) levels in the water supply for the past year exceeded the state's requirements. The water treatment plant director said that TOC occurs naturally in the environment and poses no immediate health concern, and customers do not need to boil water or drink bottled water. He blamed last year's drought, followed by heavy rainfalls as contributing factors to the county's inability to properly treat the water coming from Lake Norman and ultimately into the public water supply. The state has given the county until June 30, 2009 to come into compliance.

Source:

<http://www.newsatnorman.com/default.asp?sourceid=&smenu=1&twindow=Default&mad=No&sdetail=1468&wpage=&skeyword=&sidate=&ccat=&ccatm=&restate=&restateus=&reoption=&retype=&repmin=&repmax=&rebed=&rebath=&subname=&pform=&sc=1967&hn=newsatnorman&he=.com>

26. *November 18, North Florida News Daily* – (Florida) **\$5.2 million distributed to local partners for wastewater plant improvements.** The St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board voted November 11 to disburse \$5.2 million in legislative funds to local government utility partners in northeast Florida for wastewater

treatment plant upgrades in the Lower St. Johns River Basin. The funds, allocated by the Florida Legislature in its 2008 session, will be distributed for projects that will help Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach and Atlantic Beach reduce the amount of nutrients reaching the river to a level lower than required by new state water quality standards for the St. Johns River. The District also is partnering with local governments and utilities on more than 20 other projects, costing approximately \$100 million, to divert treated wastewater discharges from the river to improve the river's health and to make reclaimed water available, which in turn expands freshwater supplies for other higher-quality needs.

Source: <http://www.northfloridanewsdaily.com/News/2008/1117/community/181.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *November 19, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **In disaster drill, King County tries out temporary hospital.** Seattle & King County and partner groups on Tuesday held a drill at Seattle Center Exhibition Hall, one of three sites designated to handle overflow of hospital patients in the event of a flu pandemic, earthquakes, bioterrorism, or other disasters. More than 300 staffers and volunteers took part in the \$100,000 exercise. The Seattle Center Exhibition Hall, along with the adjacent opera house at McCaw Hall, can hold 250 cots. The site is equipped to provide portable oxygen and IV drips, among other services. Officials are negotiating for two more sites to bring total capacity to 750 beds. That is a fraction of the almost 60,000 King County residents who might have to be hospitalized during a severe influenza pandemic. Even a more moderate outbreak is projected to lead to 5,200 hospitalizations, surpassing the number of hospital beds in the county by at least 1,200.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008408399_emergency19m.html

28. *November 18, U.S. Department of Justice* – (Florida) **Miami HIV clinic administrator and two Miami residents sentenced for their roles in a \$14 million Medicare fraud scheme.** Three Miami residents were sentenced to prison today for their roles in defrauding the Medicare program and laundering the illegal proceeds in connection with a \$14 million HIV infusion fraud scheme, the Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division and the U.S. Attorney of the Southern District of Florida announced. In her plea, one defendant admitted that she was the president and director of G&S Medical Center Inc. (G&S), a Miami health care clinic. G&S purported to provide HIV infusion services to disabled Medicare beneficiaries. She said that from May 2003 through January 2004, she conspired with others to defraud the Medicare program by causing G&S to submit fraudulent claims for HIV services that were medically unnecessary or never provided.

Source:

http://insurancenewsnet.com/article.asp?n=1&neID=200811181680.2_1d610079348305d8

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

29. *November 19, Pittsburg Morning Sun* – (Kansas) **Bomb scare holds Pitt State hostage.** Police and campus officials evacuated two Pittsburgh State University (PSU) buildings Tuesday after police received a bomb threat. Around 4:30 p.m., Pittsburg Police received a bomb threat to Kelce Hall by phone. PSU police were soon notified and the building was evacuated, along with adjacent Hughes Hall and nearby Horace Mann Student Welcoming Center. Once the building was secured and turned over to Pittsburg State police, bomb-sniffing dogs from the Kansas Highway Patrol were called to the scene. When dogs arrived around 8 p.m., patrolmen and campus police completed a search, then repeated the process with the two dogs.
Source: <http://www.morningsun.net/news/x776451014/Bomb-scare-holds-Pitt-State-hostage>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

30. *November 19, KMIT 3 Mason City* – (Iowa) **Sheriff blaming technology for 911 problems.** A North Iowa sheriff is blaming technology for several unanswered 911 calls. Early last Wednesday morning, calls from Mason City residents, including the mayor, went unanswered. The 911 calls went to Cerro Gordo County's Public Service Answering Point. A sheriff says his center has experienced more than 40 problems with the new 911 system since last February. The problem appears to be related to the individualized ringer settings of the Quest-made Viper Positron system. When one dispatcher logged out of her computer, the ringer settings changed, muting some calls. The sheriff said that the problems began after a recent computer upgrade. The sheriff says they are not the first department to have issues. The Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's Office is installing a strobe light in their dispatch center. The light will flash when a 911 call comes in alerting dispatchers in case the ringer fails again.
Source: <http://www.kimt.com/news/local/34720564.html>
31. *November 19, Gainesville Sun* – (Florida) **Doctors, EMTs trained to respond to chemical, biological weapons.** The Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center in Gainesville, Florida has outfitted a 1999 tour bus with over \$3 million in specialized gear and is using it as chemical and biological weapons response training classroom. It houses what may be the only dual emergency simulator in the nation. In the front there is a patient simulator used to teach emergency room workers like doctors and nurses; in the back there is a patient simulator for first responders like EMTs, paramedics, and firefighters. The clinical programs coordinator for the center said he brought the bus to Gainesville under a contract with the Florida Department of Health. The contract calls for the bus to visit the entire state over several months.
Source: <http://www.gatorsports.com/article/20081119/NEWS/811192987>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

32. *November 18, Web User* – (International) **Hotmail account scam warning.** An email that claims to be from the Hotmail Customer Care team is actually a phishing scam, security experts have warned. The email, which asks recipients to verify the details of their Hotmail account to avoid having it shut down, says that a person’s account will be closed within 24 hours if they do not reply. The English in the email is not especially good, which should make it easier to identify as a scam. “We are having congestions due to the anonymous registration of Hotmail accounts so we are shutting down some Hotmail accounts and yours was among those to be deleted,” the phony email reads. “We are sending you this email to so [sic] that you can verify and let us know if you still want to use this account,” the message continues. It also asks recipients for their username, password, and date of birth. An employee of FaceTime Security said that this scam had been seen before.

Source: <http://www.webuser.co.uk/news/news.php?id=272371>

33. *November 17, CNET News* – (National) **District court halts keylogger spyware sales.** A U.S. District Court has temporarily halted the sale of RemoteSpy keylogger spyware at the request of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which claims the software violates an FTC Act. The FTC filed a complaint against Florida-based CyberSpy Software on November 5, alleging the company has violated the FTC Act by selling software that can be deployed remotely by someone other than the owner or authorized user of a computer, can be installed without the owner’s knowledge, and can be used to surreptitiously collect and disclose personal information. The FTC also claims CyberSpy unfairly collected and stored personal information gathered with RemoteSpy. The court, in its temporary restraining order filed November 6 against CyberSpy, said there is a “substantial likelihood” that the FTC will be able to prove the spyware maker violated the FTC Act.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-10099123-38.html?tag=mncol:title

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

34. *November 19, United Press International* – (International) **Canadian cops warned of cell phone jammers.** Police forces across Canada have been warned to watch for an influx of illegal cell phone jamming devices being sold in the United States. In Ottawa, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police issued a nationwide description of the devices for forces and warned they can pose a serious threat to emergency workers’ safety by

affecting their two-way radios, the Ottawa Sun reported. Hand-held jammers are easily purchased online from U.S. sites for as little as \$200, with sellers pitching to people in theaters, restaurants, or on public transit who are tired of hearing other people chatting, the report said. The devices emit a strong signal that spans cell phone frequencies and cuts off ties to communication towers. While they are used by police and the military, they are illegal in both the United States and Canada.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/11/19/Canadian_cops_warned_of_cell_phone_jammers/UPI-81871227098884/

35. *November 18, Dark Reading* – (International) **Researcher pokes holes in Bluetooth security improvements.** A researcher has revealed glaring security flaws in the newest version of the wireless protocol that let an attacker stage simple man-in-the-middle hacks. Bluetooth Version 2.1, which is gradually becoming available in Bluetooth-enabled devices, in some cases is less secure than the previous version, 2.0, said a chief cryptographer for Aladdin Knowledge Systems and assistant professor at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, at the CSI 2008 Security Reconsidered conference. The chief cryptographer says the password protocol is not secure and can be easily manipulated by an attacker. Key Bluetooth headsets and keyboards are also left unprotected under this new protocol version, which was built to use less power and to lock down Bluetooth devices from man-in-the middle and other attacks.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=LGX40X10H32HCQSNDLPSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=212100566>

36. *November 18, Government Technology* – (National) **Justice Department issues report on telecommunications.** The Department of Justice issued a report Tuesday on competitive developments in the telecommunications industry. The report, entitled “Voice, Video and Broadband: The Changing Competitive Landscape and Its Impact on Consumers,” addresses a number of issues that may affect consumers of telecommunications services and antitrust analysis in this industry, including the development of new facilities-based competition, wireless technologies as alternatives to wireline networks, price and non-price consumer benefits from competition, the significance of bundled products, and obstacles to competitive entry. The focus of the report is on telecommunications services provided to residential consumers, rather than business users.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/562035>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *November 18, Deseret News* – (Utah) **Suspicious package found at fitness center.** A suspicious package at a fitness center caused a few tense moments in Salt Lake, Utah, Monday. A citizen spotted the package in the parking lot of 24 Hour Fitness just before 11:30 a.m. It was placed between two cars near the tires, said a Salt Lake police spokeswoman. The bomb squad was called to investigate and quickly rendered the

device safe, she said. The suspicious package turned out to be the top of a paper shredder wrapped with duct tape on top of a black plastic box, she said. Whoever left the device in the parking lot apparently intended to make it look like an explosive device, she said.

Source: <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,705264043,00.html>

38. *November 18, WJLA 7 Washington, D.C.* – (New York) **NYPD opens new counterterrorism nerve center.** Counterterrorism officers with the New York Police Department have transformed the 28th-floor office near Wall Street into the new nerve center for an ambitious plan to protect lower Manhattan from terrorist threats. The center quietly began operating earlier this month, the first phase of a \$100 million project sparked by the September 11th attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center. The project will rely largely on 3,000 closed-circuit security cameras covering roughly 1.7 square miles in and around the financial district. So far, about 150 cameras are in place, with 250 more coming on line by the end of the year and the rest by 2011. The program was modeled in part after the “ring of steel” surveillance measures in London’s financial district. But police officials here said it will exceed that effort in scope and sophistication. “I believe we’ll have the safest business district in the world,” the Police Commissioner said during a recent visit to the command center, situated in an office tower that is also home to brokerage, research, and insurance firms.
- Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/1108/570988.html>

39. *November 17, Associated Press* – (California) **Yosemite rockslides are happening more often.** For a decade, the National Park Service has known that the 3,000-foot granite cliff hanging over a tourist village at Yosemite is susceptible to colossal rockslides like one last month that crushed cabins and sent schoolchildren running for their lives. The park service has repeatedly rebuilt and repaired the lodgings rather than bar the public or post warnings. Curry Village is the most family-friendly lodging in the park, consisting of cabins, stores, and restaurants run by outside companies. The village has experienced more rockfalls during the past decade than any other place in the one-by-seven-mile valley. A park advisory committee could decide as early as this week whether to shut down permanently as much as half of Curry Village, which has been around for more than a century.
- Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27774307/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

40. *November 19, Washington Post* – (National) **EPA moves to ease air rules for parks.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing new air-quality rules that would make it easier to build coal-fired power plants, oil refineries, and other major polluters near national parks and wilderness areas. Documents obtained by the Washington Post show that the Presidential Administration’s push to weaken Clean Air Act protections for “Class 1 areas” nationwide has sparked fierce resistance from senior agency officials. The proposal would change the practice of measuring pollution levels near national parks, which is currently done over 3-hour and 24-hour increments to

capture emission spikes during periods of peak energy demand; instead, the levels would be averaged over a year. Under this system, spikes in pollution would no longer violate the law. EPA regional administrators have argued that this switch would undermine critical air-quality protections for parks such as Virginia's Shenandoah, which is frequently plagued by smog and poor visibility. Many national parks struggle with poor visibility shrouding otherwise spectacular vistas, as well as acid rain and other problems caused by air pollution, a situation that has intensified the debate over how best to regulate nearby pollution sources. Visitors to Shenandoah National Park's Skyline Drive in the mid-1930s reported seeing the Washington Monument more than 70 miles away; now, on some days, visibility is barely one mile. If the EPA adopts the rule change, environmental groups plan to file a petition for reconsideration with the agency, which would allow the incoming Presidential Administration to reverse the policy.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/18/AR2008111803813.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

41. *November 18, Bucks County Courier Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Township targets trees growing out of dam.** Middletown will spend about \$350,000 over seven years to preserve a mostly earthen dam on property it owns in Langhorne Manor. The township will spend about \$50,000 a year, starting next year, to gradually remove trees growing out of the dam on the old Langhorne Spring Water property. The trees and their root systems could gradually eat away at the dam and lead to the draining away of a pond the dam holds back. The land is the former home of the Langhorne Spring Water Company, which supplied drinking water to area residents.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/111-11182008-1623454.html>

42. *November 18, KFYZ 5 Bismarck* – (North Dakota) **Local levees need certification.** Flood hazard maps in Ward County and across the nation are being updated. The maps indicate high risk flood zones. Levees were built in the Souris River Basin years ago to protect landowners from flood, now those levees may not be up to FEMA's standards. Part of the updating process requires levees and dikes to be certified by an engineer. The problem is the Army Corps of Engineers used to certify the levees, now that responsibility is being placed on local entities. "I was told there was probably only two engineering firms in the United States who would do that. And when the Corps was here, they said if there are they would like to know who they are. They haven't been able to find any," said the Chairman of the Ward County Water Resource Board. If the levees cannot be certified, FEMA will not acknowledge them as providing flood protection and the buildings with mortgages in the high risk zones will require flood insurance. Some levee problems county officials foresee are obstructions on the levees, moisture seepage caused by gardens or other encroachments, and lack of appropriate vegetation to eliminate erosion.

Source: http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=24344

43. *November 18, KATC 3 Acadiana* – (Louisiana) **Corps set to re-build intracoastal**

levees. After devastating storm surge floods from hurricanes Rita and Ike, residents in parts of coastal Louisiana are still cleaning up. But now, a solid plan is in place to protect much of that area from the next storm. The levees along the waterway used to be about 30 feet high. Now they are just a few feet high, but coastal residents say anything extra would be helpful. The Water Resources Development Act that Congress passed in 2007 approved a project to dredge the channel that runs from Vermilion Bay to the Port of Iberia. And now the plan is to put that dredged material along the Intracoastal Waterway, building a higher levee to stop storm surge. The project's been fast-tracked and work should begin in less than three years, with levee heights around 15 feet. Source: <http://www.katc.com/Global/story.asp?S=9372217>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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