Top Stories

- Reuters reports that Somali pirates seized a Danish-owned, U.S.-operated container ship on Wednesday with 21 American crew on board in the Indian Ocean 400 miles off Mogadishu. (See item 17)
- According to CNET News, the Pentagon spent more than $100 million in the past six months cleaning up after Internet attacks and network issues, military leaders said on Tuesday. (See item 31)

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1. April 8, Platts – (National) NERC cybersecurity chief seeks new data, attitude from industry. The head of cybersecurity for North America’s grid reliability group said Tuesday in a letter to power industry officials that the sector needs to deepen its understanding of how online threats could undermine the security of electricity supply. The letter from the chief security officer at the North American Electric Reliability Corporation also warns utilities and others that audits of compliance with NERC’s
existing cybersecurity standards will start this summer. The results of a NERC survey on industry compliance with a cybersecurity standard “raise concern about the identification of critical assets and the associated critical cyber assets which could be used to manipulate them,” the chief said in the letter. The results suggest certain assets may not have been identified as critical. Of particular concern are assets owned and operated by generation owners or generation operators, only 29 percent of which reported identifying at least one critical asset, while less than 63 percent of transmission owners identified at least one critical asset, the chief said. He told the industry that traditional thinking on the grid’s physical reliability is not sufficient in analyzing risks of cybersecurity, which can affect multiple assets simultaneously, and not just one device or asset in a particular region. According to Wired, a journalist reports that researchers like the chief security officer at NERC “are working to make sure that when a control computer makes a decision, it assumes that some portion of the meters are compromised. Other lines of defense will include ‘dissimilar’ protocols for wireless meters in a neighborhood, which is roughly like making sure that not everyone in town uses the same cellphone carrier; the ability to quarantine meters; and the design of firmware that can easily be reset to a normal state.”

See also: http://blog.wired.com/business/2009/04/china-and-russi.html

2. April 7, Convenience Store News – (Kentucky) Childers Oil Co. blamed for polluting water source. In Whitesburg, Childers Oil Co. is being blamed for polluting its hometown water source, twice in four months. The petroleum marketer and operator of 45 Double Kwik convenience stores is facing environmental sanctions, a criminal investigation, and lawsuits for polluting the North Fork of the Kentucky River after the state blamed the company for an oil sludge leak in November 2008 and a diesel fuel leak in February 2009. In early March, state regulators sought a court order that would bring a contempt of court charge against the company if it has further leaks, such as the one in February that resulted in residents being unable to use water for cooking, drinking, and bathing for 10 days. In November, oil waste allegedly seeped from a company site into the river a mile upstream from the city water plant, regulators said. In February, diesel fuel spilled into the river from a site where the company stored dozens of large fuel-storage tanks four miles upstream from the city, according to a citation. In addition to a criminal investigation of the November spill, Childers Oil faces fines of up to $25,000 a day per violation from the two leaks. The state Energy and Environment Cabinet filed a lawsuit against Childers Oil and a sister corporation, Mountain Rail Properties Inc., according to a report in the Lexington Herald-Leader. The cabinet asked a Franklin circuit judge to issue an injunction barring the companies from allowing more leaks of petroleum products. The company promised to continue testing water samples every day along the river from its property to the water intake of the plant and from the plant’s treated water.

Source:
3. **April 7, Associated Press** – (Nevada) **Power restored to Reno businesses after underground explosion.** Power is restored in downtown Reno after an explosion in an underground vault blew off a manhole cover. The Reno Fire Department responded to calls of an explosion just before 5:00 p.m. on April 6. Firefighters and NV Energy determined an oil-filled switch fuse “blew” underground, causing the power outage. Many News 4 viewers called the newsroom concerned about smoke seen in the area, but fire crews said it was just coming from the generators, and there was no reason for alarm. Power was restored after 6 a.m. on the morning of April 7, for several downtown Reno buildings. “Our biggest concern was there’s always a potential for electrical systems to automatically re-energize after a certain period of time,” said a Reno Fire Department battalion chief. No injuries were reported in the incident. Source: [http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=10142616](http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=10142616)

4. **April 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** – (Minnesota) **Olmsted waste-to-energy facility agrees to comply with EPA order.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has issued an administrative consent order under the Clean Air Act to the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEE) in Rochester, Minnesota. The facility, a small municipal solid waste burner, has agreed to comply with federal regulations to control mercury, dioxin, and furan emissions from the plant. Last December, EPA sent OWEE a notice alleging that the facility had violated the Clean Air Act by not taking the correct measures to control its mercury, dioxin, and furan emissions. EPA met with facility representatives in January to discuss the allegations. This order resolves EPA’s finding. Source: [http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/0cd66cd50916a9de85257590005baacb?OpenDocument](http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/0cd66cd50916a9de85257590005baacb?OpenDocument)

5. **April 5, WKHM 970 Jackson** – (Michigan) **3,700 still without power.** Approximately 11,000 Consumers Energy electric customers were without service due to the winter storm that swept across southern Michigan. Since the evening of April 5, more than 66,000 customers have been affected by weather-related outages. Source: [http://www.wkhm.com/story.php?more_group=83&more_block=news&more_item=74850](http://www.wkhm.com/story.php?more_group=83&more_block=news&more_item=74850)

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**Chemical Industry Sector**

6. **April 7, Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald** – (North Carolina) **County will loan money for safety needs.** The Department of Homeland Security’s concerns mean upgrading safety and security fencing around a Severn chemical plant, and Northampton County will help the local company meet the new federal standards. On April 6, the Northampton County Board of Commissioners approved a $375,000 short-term bridge loan for the project. The money will be used to assist the Resinall-NCVA Rail Improvements Project. Once the project is completed, in approximately six months, the county will be fully reimbursed. Changes in Environmental Protection Agency and Homeland Security
regulations regarding chemical plants required Resinall to provide security fencing and to establish better buffer zones between the main rail track and the plant in the town of Severn. The director of Northampton County’s Economic Development Department said, “The project is necessary, owing to the rules by the EPA in response to Homeland Security relative to chemical plants. The side benefit is the improvements to the rail line in the vicinity of Resinall and upstream by the elimination of a sharp curve.”


7. *April 6, Mexico Ledger* – (Missouri) **Monroe County LEPC tests skills.** On April 3, the Monroe County Local Emergency Preparedness Committee staged a mock hazardous material and chemical spill and release on the parking lot of the Monroe County Coop Agri Service and Winfield Solutions, in Paris. The training exercise was dispatched as a motor vehicle accident, injuries unknown, by the Monroe County 911 around 1830 hours. The scenario involved a vehicle rollover with two people trapped inside, and a truck tagged with a hazardous waste placard that had collided with a tank filled with anhydrous ammonia. Both the truck and the tank were leaking. The purpose of the exercise was to test the Paris fire district’s capability to handle a hazardous and chemical emergency, and to coordinate with area emergency services. At 2030 hours the exercise ended.


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

8. *April 7, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Texas) **Possible overexposure during the second quarter of 2008.** Landauer, a dosimeter processing vendor, notified Halliburton Energy Services of Houston, Texas of a possible overexposure in their quarterly dosimetry report on August 20, 2008. Around that same time, Halliburton had just terminated the previous radiation safety officer (RSO) and was in the process of hiring a new RSO. The current RSO became aware of this possible overexposure when she received an annual exposure report from Landauer. One well logging engineer, who had been performing work for Halliburton at the Prudhoe Bay, Alaska site, reportedly received an exposure of 9141 millirem from April 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008. The report from Landauer contains a note to the effect that the dosimeter had been read twice with the second reading in agreement with the first; however, there was an irregularity. The RSO is investigating the occurrence.

9. *April 8, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Norwalk man dies in electrical fire at mine.** A Norwalk man died in an electrical fire at the Hallett Materials site northwest of Des Moines on the afternoon of April 7. The man, a Hallett employee, died after a transformer spark caused a fire near the gravel mine. The fire started around 4 p.m., said a spokeswoman for the Polk County sheriff’s office. MidAmerican Energy had to shut off power to the area for rescue crews to reach Bainum. He was in an electrical area that is under Hallett’s control, said a spokeswoman for MidAmerican.


10. *April 8, Reliable Plant Magazine* – (Texas) **Houston manufacturer cited after electrocution death.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued failure-to-abate citations to JD Manufacturing Inc., doing business as Arrow Waste, in Houston for a follow-up inspection that revealed previous violations had not been abated. The initial inspection on January 29, 2008 at the company’s facility in Houston followed the electrocution death of a worker. Upon re-inspection on October 9, 2008, OSHA’s investigation found that the six violations, four alleged serious and two alleged other-than-serious, originally cited were not corrected by the company. The serious failure-to-abate violations include failing to have a written program for the control of hazardous energy, not installing the required wiring in accordance with OSHA regulations and failing to adequately mark branch circuits to indicate their purpose. A serious citation is issued when there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known. The initial inspection carried proposed penalties totaling $25,500. The re-inspection carries $108,000 in proposed penalties.


11. *April 7, St. John’s Telegram* – (International) **No “run dry” requirement, says Sikorsky.** Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. says no “run dry” requirement is necessary for certifying civilian helicopters “as described in media reports.” A Sikorsky spokesman said in an e-mail that the S-92A is “fully compliant with the lubrication system failure requirement” of the U.S. Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR). The Globe and Mail reported April 6 that the S-92A — the same model helicopter that crashed off Newfoundland March 12 killing 17 people — failed a key safety test. That test, known as a run-dry requirement, determines whether the aircraft can keep flying if the oil in its main gearbox leaks out. Sikorsky says a bypass switch in the S-92A allows pilots to capture the remaining oil if there is a leak. Sikorsky says an earlier incident in July 2008 in Western Australia was investigated and “it was determined that an issue related to operator’s maintenance was a significant factor.”


12. *April 6, Houston County News* – (Minnesota) **Fire totals rural Hokah business.** Authorities are trying to determine the cause of a fire that destroyed a rural Hokah manufacturing business on the morning of April 3. The fire was reported about 6:30 a.m.
at RB Roth Inc., about 2 miles west of Hokah, officials said. No one was in the business at the time or injured in the blaze, which took firefighters from Hokah, Houston, La Crescent, and Caledonia more than an hour to extinguish, officials said.
Source: http://www.houstonconews.com/articles/2009/04/06/news/07fire.txt

Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. April 8, Arizona Republic – (Arizona) Chandler-based ArmorWorks Enterprises LLC loses bid protest. An independent government agency has again rejected a protest by Chandler-based ArmorWorks Enterprises LLC, which alleged it lost a billion-dollar body armor contract because of inconsistent Army testing. ArmorWorks was knocked out of competition for the defense contract last July after the company’s armor-plate samples failed ballistics tests the Army conducted. The company filed two protests with the Government Accountability Office, which determines contracting disputes, claiming the Army used inaccurate testing methods on its armor plates. The GAO denied the protests in September, saying ArmorWorks did not file its protests in a timely manner and failed to prove how alleged testing errors hurt the company. ArmorWorks makes armor products for soldiers, vehicles, and aircraft. The company was one of four companies the Army invited to submit armor-plate samples for a potential contract worth as much as $1 billion. ArmorWorks filed a third protest with the GAO following the release of a report by the Defense Department’s watchdog arm in January. That report found the Army conducted inadequate testing of certain armor plates procured from ArmorWorks under a previous contract the company had won. The findings prompted the Army to pull 16,400 sets of ArmorWorks body armor, despite the Army’s insistence that the armor was safe. Although the Defense Department report pertained to a different testing method than the one used in the contract ArmorWorks lost, the company claimed the findings supported its earlier arguments for why its bid should be reconsidered. But in its most recent decision released April 7, the GAO said the Defense Department report was of “limited relevance” to ArmorWorks’ protests because it dealt with different testing methods and contracts.
Source:

Banking and Finance Sector

14. April 8, Bloomberg – (National) Congressional panel suggests firing managers, liquidating banks. A congressional panel overseeing the U.S. financial rescue suggested that getting rid of top executives and liquidating problem banks may be a better way to solve the economic crisis. The Congressional Oversight Panel, in a report released on April 7, also said the Treasury may be relying on too rosy an economic scenario to guide its $700 billion bailout, and declared that the success of the program after six months is “mixed.” Three of the group’s members disagreed with at least some
of the findings. “All successful efforts to address bank crises have involved the combination of moving aside failed management and getting control of the process of valuing bank balance sheets,” the panel, headed by a Harvard Law School professor, said in its report. The Treasury Secretary has revamped the Troubled Asset Relief Program to focus on injecting capital into banks and removing up to $1 trillion in illiquid securities from their balance sheets via public-private investment partnerships. The government is also working to unfreeze credit markets through a Federal Reserve program that provides loans to investors in some asset-backed securities. The professor, in an interview on Bloomberg Television, said on April 7 that while “things may be getting a little better” under the Treasury Secretary, the Treasury still needs to be more transparent about how it is spending the taxpayers’ money.


15. April 7, Los Angeles Times – (National) Obama Administration warns of mortgage relief scams. Scams targeting struggling homeowners seeking to stave off foreclosure have skyrocketed, federal officials said on April 6, disclosing that they are investigating more than 2,100 companies and have filed legal actions against an Irvine firm and three others. The Attorney General announced the campaign with the Treasury Secretary and other federal officials. The Attorney General said the FBI’s “rescue scam” caseload was up 400 percent from five years ago. The point of the joint effort was to warn homeowners to keep an eye out for potential trouble and to signal to scam artists that “we are united in rooting out foreclosure fraud,” said the secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Federal Trade Commission chairman said that his agency had targeted firms such as Federal Loan Modification Law Center in Irvine that allegedly sought through their names and advertising to suggest they were connected to the government. In many cases, federal officials said, mortgage scams have masqueraded as affiliates of a $75-billion program the U.S. President announced in February to help as many as 9 million homeowners avoid foreclosure — except that, unlike the real federal program, they try to collect fees from homeowners in advance. The agency also sent out warning letters to 71 additional companies that appeared to be marketing deceptive loan modification or foreclosure relief plans, said the Federal Trade Commission chairman.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-foreclosure7-2009apr07,0,4424356.story

16. April 7, KFSM 5 Fayetteville – (Arizona) Bomb scare in Springdale. The bomb squad had to be called to a Springdale bank on April 7 after a suspicious package was found outside the building. The package was discovered at the Bank of America on Sunset Avenue around 7:45 a.m. Employees found the FED-EX box leaning against the front door and called police. “Initial officers arrived and determined that there was something suspicious about the package,” said a sergeant of the Springdale Police Department. “It was later x-rayed by members of the Springdale bomb squad and determined there was a suspicious type of explosive device inside the box.” Inside the box were two pipes and a cell phone attached to some wires, all tools used to make a pipe bomb. Police set up a perimeter around the bank, blocking all traffic on Sunset Avenue. A robot was sent in to
detonate the bomb. During the first detonation windows at the Bank of America were blown out. The robot then dragged the remains of the box around to the side of the building where bomb squad members could further investigate. Two more detonations followed. It was determined that there were no explosive devices inside the box, but the police are still taking it very seriously. “It appears the intent was to make it look like an explosive device,” said the sergeant. The Springdale Police are working with the FBI in the investigation. They say those responsible will face criminal and federal charges. Source: http://www.kfsm.com/news/kfsm-news-nwa-bomb-scare-springdale-bank-sunset,0,1574519.story

Transportation Sector

17. April 8, Reuters – (International) Somali pirates seize U.S.-operated ship-maritime group. Somali pirates seized a Danish-owned, U.S.-operated container ship on April 8 with 21 American crew on board in the latest of a sharp rise in attacks off the Horn of Africa nation, a maritime group said. A spokesman from the Kenya-based East African Seafarers’ Assistance Program said the 17,000 ton vessel was hijacked in the Indian Ocean 400 miles off the Somali capital Mogadishu. He said all of the crew was believed to be safe, and that the vessel had been tentatively identified as the Maersk Alabama. Gunmen from Somalia seized a British-owned ship on April 6 after hijacking another three vessels on April 4 and 5. The pirates typically use speed boats launched from “mother ships,” which means they can sometimes evade foreign navies patrolling the busy shipping lanes and strike far out to sea. They take captured vessels to remote coastal village bases in Somalia, where they have usually treated their hostages well in anticipation of a sizeable ransom payment. Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/africaCrisis/idUSL8515358

18. April 8, Miami Herald – (Florida; National) Miami phasing in air-traffic innovation. A new satellite-based air traffic control system is gradually being installed nationwide, with Miami the first site to house the new operational equipment. The first phase of the system was formally unveiled at MIA on April 7 by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials and executives of the private company ITT involved in installation. Dubbed NextGen or Next Generation, the system eventually may replace conventional radar with satellite GPS signals to track aircraft more precisely — enabling pilots to fly more direct paths instead of the often circuitous high-altitude and radio beacon airways of today. FAA officials, however, said the existing radar system will remain in place even after national deployment of NextGen. Radars will be taken out of service gradually over a period of decades, with some remaining operational for a long time to serve as backup, officials said. System advocates envision a future when pilots will also talk less or none at all to air traffic controllers for takeoff, climb and cruise authorizations — receiving clearances instead as text messages on cockpit computer displays either sent by human controllers or pre-programmed into software linked to NextGen. Source: http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation/story/989545.html
19. *April 7, Associated Press* – (National) **Mechanics, crew faulted in MD-82 engine fire.**

American Airlines failed to catch repeated errors by mechanics before a September 2007 flight that made an emergency landing after one of its engines caught fire during departure. The 143 people onboard were not injured, but the incident could have become catastrophic because of additional mistakes by the flight crew, members of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said April 7. The four-member board recommended changes in pilot training programs to take into account simultaneous emergencies. The findings come as American faces heightened scrutiny by the Federal Aviation Administration. The agency recently assigned a special team of 17 inspectors to examine American’s aircraft maintenance and other operations. The special audit is expected to take about three months. The NTSB’s hearing on April 7 was held to examine the September 28, 2007 incident in which American Flight 1400’s left engine caught fire during a departure climb from Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. An American Airlines spokesman said the airline is changing training procedures for mechanics and pilots as a result of the incident, and hiring more auditors to review maintenance work.

Source:
http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jqUdS1ckhp3gX4Honsh9SL5L AelAD97DPCFO3

See also: http://avherald.com/h?article=417bd523&opt=4865

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20. *April 7, United Press International* – (Virginia) **Man charged over airport weapon incident.**

A Florida man faces a charge of trying to board a plane in Virginia with a knife, officials said. The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot reported April 7 that the knife was found by security staff at the Norfolk International Airport. Initially, officers thought the 22-year old suspect was carrying a grenade, but it turned out to be an urn filled the ashes of his grandfather. The knife was found inside his carry-on bag.


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**Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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**Agriculture and Food Sector**

21. *April 8, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Louisiana rice fields salted by 2008 hurricanes.**

A new report estimates that southwestern Louisiana farmers will not be able to plant thousands of acres of rice this year because of high salt levels in fields after last summer’s hurricanes. Researchers from the Louisiana State University AgCenter estimate in their report released last Friday that the loss of about 35,500 acres will take an economic toll of $36 million on the largely rural, five-parish region affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike. That is on top of the initial effects and damage from the
September storms. Parts of the region were still recovering from Hurricane Rita in 2005 — some rice farmers had barely returned to more-normal plantings — when Gustav and Ike hit. “It seems like we’ve kind of been forgotten,” said an AgCenter agent in Vermilion Parish. “... A lot of these farmers have had to leave farming and have not come back, because it is just too expensive.” The problem was not rain, but rather saltwater from storm surge that washed inland and into the fields when the hurricanes hit. The problem is not just land that can be idled by saltwater surge; tractors and other equipment can be corroded, with brakes, steering or hydraulics systems ruined. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates Louisiana will plant the second-highest number of rice acres in the country this year, well behind Arkansas but slightly ahead of California. It could be 2010 before salt levels recede to a point that farmers can again plant most of the lost acres, an agricultural economist said.

Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jND7SIIMels347SRt1YE5dftA2mAD97E6NFO0

22. April 7, Associated Press – (Georgia) Imperial Sugar warned 2 days before explosion. A newspaper says a consultant warned Imperial Sugar about combustible dust hazards at its Georgia refinery just two days before a deadly explosion devastated the plant near Savannah. The Savannah Morning News reports in Tuesday’s editions that consultant McAljon Engineering warned of impaired dust collection systems at the refinery in a report dated February 5, 2008. A huge explosion rocked the plant two days later. Federal investigators later blamed the explosion on sugar dust that ignited like gunpowder. Fourteen workers died and dozens more were injured. Imperial Sugar, based in Sugar Land, Texas, said it did not receive the consultant’s report until after the explosion. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration said last year that records showed Imperial Sugar had been warned several times about combustible dust hazards since 2002.


23. April 6, Associated Press – (Maine) Mass.-based egg producer vows to go ‘cage free.’ Eggland’s Best, based in Jeffersonville, Pennsylvania, said it would no longer do business with franchisee Radlo Foods because of allegations of animal cruelty surrounding the former DeCoster Egg Farm in Turner in central Maine. In turn, Radlo Foods said it would no longer do business with the farm and pledged to become “cage-free.” Mercy for Animals, which conducted an undercover operation of the farm, captured footage of hens living under cramped conditions in cages and showed workers grabbing hens by the neck and twirling them around in circles. Last week, state agriculture inspectors visited Quality Egg of New England, which operates the farm in Turner, to gather evidence that will be submitted to a prosecutor to determine if charges are warranted. On Monday, Eggland said that Radlo violated terms of its agreement by working with a farm that was not in compliance with Eggland’s strict animal welfare standards. Radlo responded by announcing that as of last week it was no longer doing business with the Turner farm and was moving to become 100 percent cage-free.

Source:
24. *April 6, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Worker injured in chemical explosion at Carroll plant.** A 27-year-old male employee of a Carroll County firm that produces tobacco flavoring was injured Monday when the lid of a tank containing boiling methylene chloride under high pressure blew off, according to state police at Westminster. About 2 p.m., the worker was between 30 and 40 feet from the tank at Tobacco Tech in Sykesville when the tank’s lid blew off, sending fluid and vapors throughout the room, police said. Two other employees pulled the man to safety and took him outside. As a precaution, police closed down a portion of Liberty Road for about 90 minutes. Police also removed 55 children from the nearby All About Kids Learning Center by bus and returned them nearly two hours later. Occupants at Athens Health Club, also near the plant, were advised to leave while the scene of the explosion was washed down by firefighters. The incident is being investigated by the Maryland Department of the Environment, the state fire marshal’s office, and the state’s Office of Safety and Health Administration. The Baltimore resident, whose name was not released, was treated at the scene before being airlifted to Maryland Shock Trauma Center. His condition was not available.


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**Water Sector**

25. *April 7, Water Technology Online* – (National) **Sacramento, San Joaquin rivers top ‘endangered’ list.** Outdated water and flood management places the Sacramento-San Joaquin River System, the largest watershed in California, at the top of “America’s Most Endangered Rivers: 2009 edition,” according to an April 7 press release by conservation organization American Rivers. American Rivers, based in Washington, D.C., has released an annual list of endangered rivers since 1986. The president of American Rivers says in the release, “Unless we overhaul the way we manage water supply and flood protection on the Sacramento-San Joaquin, the lives of millions of people and the entire economy of the state of California will continue to be jeopardized.” Other rivers and their “most endangered” rank on the report: 2 - Flint River (Georgia), 3 - Lower Snake River (Indiana, Oregon, Washington), 4 - Mattawoman Creek (Maryland), 5 - North Fork of the Flathead River (Montana), 6 - Saluda River (South Carolina), 7 - Laurel Hill Creek (Pennsylvania), 8 - Beaver Creek (Arkansas), 9 - Pascagoula River (Mississippi), 10 - Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (Minnesota, Wisconsin).


26. *April 7, Statesman* – (Texas) **Damaged wastewater line spills over 100,000 gallons in North Central Austin.** Austin Water Utility crews discovered a broken wastewater line on April 7 that caused approximately 110,000 gallons to spill near Little Walnut Creek. The broken line is located near the creek in the 2300 block of Vanderbilt Circle near U.S. 290 and U.S. 183. Repairs have been made to the eight inch wastewater line and
crews are working to clean the area.

27. April 6, Associated Press – (Virginia) **High zinc level found in Appomattox water.** Appomattox officials are finding high levels of zinc in water discharged from one of the town’s waste water treatment plants. By January, the amounts of zinc were four times the levels than the plant’s permit allows. The problem was first noticed in October, when zinc discharges were nearly double the permitted levels, according to a violation notice sent to the town last month. The zinc levels are not hazardous to humans, but if enough of the metal accumulates in waterways, it could affect fish and other aquatic life. Department of Environmental Quality officials say the agency will draft an order regarding the zinc levels and give the town time to comply, but they did not offer a time frame.
Source: http://www.whsv.com/virginiaap/headlines/42441417.html

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. April 8, Macon Telegraph – (Georgia) **Six VA patients possibly infected due to faulty sterilization.** The Department of Veterans Affairs confirmed on April 7 that at least six Augusta, Georgia VA Medical Center patients may have been exposed to contamination due to improperly sterilized endoscopic equipment. A statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. said the six patients tested positive for either hepatitis B, C, or the human immunodeficiency virus. “These results do not indicate that there is any relationship between these patients’ conditions and the endoscopy procedures they underwent,” the release added. “However, VA is conducting an epidemiologic investigation to look into the possibility of such a relationship.” The Augusta facility is one of three VA centers undergoing review because of what the VA is calling “improperly reprocessed endoscopy equipment.” The other two are in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and Miami, Florida.
Source: http://www.macon.com/198/story/676283.html

29. April 7, Modernhealthcare.com – (National) **Feds release open-source NHIN gateway software.** The open-source movement in healthcare was afforded significant federal affirmation this week as “Connect,” the software code to create a gateway between multiple federal organizations and the proposed national health information network, was made available for downloading and public use on April 6, according to an HHS announcement made at the 2009 Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society meeting in Chicago. The program is federally developed and free. It was created under the auspices of the Federal Health Architecture initiative led by the Office of the National Coordinator at HHS.
Source: http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20090407/REG/304079996/1153

30. April 5, Highlands County News-Sun – (Florida) **Arrest made in anthrax hoax.** Investigators with the Highlands County Sheriff’s Office, the Florida Department of
Law Enforcement, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation tracked down the man they say is responsible for the anthrax hoax on April 2. The man’s home is less than a mile from Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center, which was shut down for 14 hours due to the threat. The 20-year-old has been charged with 79 counts of hoax of a weapon of mass destruction, which could add up to 15 years per count, or 1,185 years in prison. Additional charges could be added later. He is being held without bond.
Source: http://www.newssun.com/0405-eb-anthrax-arrest

Government Facilities Sector

31. April 7, CNET News – (National) Pentagon spends over $100 million on cyberattack cleanup. The Pentagon spent more than $100 million in the past six months cleaning up after Internet attacks and network issues, military leaders said on Tuesday. “The important thing is that we recognize that we are under assault from the least sophisticated — what I would say the bored teenager — all the way up to the sophisticated nation-state, with some petty criminal elements sandwiched in between,” the head of U.S. Strategic Command told reporters at a cyberspace conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Neither he nor the deputy commander for network operations would say how much of the estimated $100 million was spent cleaning up from viruses compared with outside attacks and inadvertent security problems due to U.S. Department of Defense employees. However, they did say that spending money to shore up the networks to prevent attacks and breaches would be better than paying to clean up after an incident.
Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10214416-83.html

Emergency Services Sector

32. April 7, Minneapolis Star-Tribune – (Minnesota) New 911 call center open for business in Washington County. Washington County’s new 911 communications center went into action on April 7, replacing 15-year-old equipment and a cramped “dungeon” room in the Law Enforcement Center basement. The center was one of the first new spaces to open in Washington County’s $59.6 million expansion of the government center campus in Stillwater. Dispatchers handle 911 calls for 230,000 residents and direct the traffic of 14 fire companies, 10 law enforcement agencies, and seven ambulance services. The public should notice more efficiency because the new communications system is quicker and more seamless in transmitting information to police, medics, and firefighters, a dispatcher said. Washington County installed new 911 telephones to replace aging equipment and a new computer-aided dispatch system that includes improved records management. The call center also has a new metrowide 800-megahertz radio system that has eliminated dead spots around Hugo, Afton, and a few other locations in Washington County.
Source: http://www.startribune.com/local/east/42637692.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP
33. *April 7, Hampton Roads Daily Press* – (Virginia) **Guns missing from stolen NN cop car.** An unmarked police car containing a handgun, a tactical rifle, and other police equipment, was stolen this week in Newport News, Virginia. Between midnight and 8 a.m. on April 6, an unmarked police vehicle was taken from outside a detective’s residence in the Beechlake Estates area, a police spokeswoman said. Inside the vehicle was the detective’s handgun, tactical rifle, ballistic vest, and various other police equipment. “Some of the equipment was recovered. However, the handgun, tactical rifle, ballistic vest and other equipment was missing,” she said.
Source: [http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-local_copcar-onlineapr08,0,199088.story](http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-local_copcar-onlineapr08,0,199088.story)

34. *April 7, West Virginia State Journal* – (West Virginia) **Lewis/Gilmer E911 center installing new emergency system.** The director of the Lewis and Gilmer E911 Center says the center is installing a new system that will route emergency phone calls to the fire departments in Jane Lew and Walkersville, West Virginia, if a 911 outage or glitch occurs. He also says the fire departments will be receiving radios so that they can call the Communications Center and other emergency agencies for help. The new system, which will cost about $10,000 and is being funded through the county commission and 911 funds, should be in place by July 2009.

### Information Technology

35. *April 8, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Electricity grid in U.S. penetrated by spies.**
Cyberspies have penetrated the U.S. electrical grid and left behind software programs that could be used to disrupt the system, according to current and former national-security officials. The spies came from China, Russia, and other countries, these officials said, and were believed to be on a mission to navigate the U.S. electrical system and its controls. The intruders have not sought to damage the power grid or other key infrastructure, but officials warned they could try during a crisis or war. “The Chinese have attempted to map our infrastructure, such as the electrical grid,” said a senior intelligence official. “So have the Russians.” The espionage appeared pervasive across the United States and does not target a particular company or region, said a former Department of Homeland Security official. Many of the intrusions were detected not by the companies in charge of the infrastructure but by U.S. intelligence agencies, officials said. Intelligence officials worry about cyber attackers taking control of electrical facilities, a nuclear power plant, or financial networks via the Internet. Authorities investigating the intrusions have found software tools left behind that could be used to destroy infrastructure components, the senior intelligence official said. Officials said water, sewage, and other infrastructure systems also were at risk. Officials cautioned that the motivation of the cyberspies was not well understood, and they do not see an immediate danger. But protecting the electrical grid and other infrastructure is a key part of the Presidential Administration’s cybersecurity review, which is to be completed next week.
Communications Sector

36. April 7, IDG News Service – (Texas) FBI claims ISP stole millions from AT&T, Verizon. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has raided a Dallas collocation facility, investigating a fraud in which telecommunication giants AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. were allegedly duped into providing more than 120 million minutes of telephone service to criminals. Following a twisted trail of dummy corporations, post office box addresses, and bogus phone numbers, the FBI investigation centers on two Texas companies: Premier Voice and Lone Star Power. Individuals associated with the two companies submitted “false/fraudulent credit information and other false representations” to access the telephone services, which they allegedly resold to their own customers for one cent per minute over a nearly four-month period, according to an affidavit signed by an FBI agent. Four suspects are identified in a March 11 affidavit, which was made public April 7. “All four of these individuals had numerous criminal charges associated with them, including [charges of] various frauds, interfering with law enforcement officials, violent crimes, and illegal possession of weapons.” The FBI agent wrote. Citing an unidentified witness, the FBI agent said that one of the suspects was also involved in spamming and selling pirated software under the pseudonym CygonX.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=networking_and_internet&articleId=9131247&taxoountryId=16&intsrc=kc_top

Commercial Facilities Sector

37. April 6, Harvard Crimson – (Massachusetts) Square disrupted by bomb scare. Cambridge Police and the Cambridge bomb squad swarmed Harvard Square in response to a bomb threat on Saturday morning. Police closed down Massachusetts Avenue, the Harvard Square MBTA stop, and several nearby Square businesses. The scare was precipitated by a call to Cambridge police made by a pedestrian early Saturday morning, according to an employee of the Crimson Corner newsstand. The pedestrian heard a ticking noise coming from the two mailboxes outside of the Harvard Square Bank of
America, and the source of the ticking was later discovered to be a “clicker” placed in one of the mailboxes. A “clicker” is an electronic device often used in restaurants to alert patrons when their table is ready, another Square employee said. 
Source: http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=527498

National Monuments & Icons Sector

38. April 7, KBND 1110 Bend – (Oregon) More stimulus dollars go to work in the forest. The U.S. Forest Service has awarded another fuels reductions project contract funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This latest one is for $290,000 to clear about 800 acres on the Lookout Mountain Ranger District in the Ochoco National Forest. A District Ranger says PatRick Environmental of Redmond is to start on the project in the next few days. The Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests have received about $5 million in economic stimulus funding and has awarded about $3 million so far. This kind of work helps to keep fires manageable when they do break out and safer for fire fighters.
Source: http://www.kbnd.com/328762.aspx

Dams Sector

39. April 8, Associated Press – (North Dakota; Minnesota) Fargo-Moorhead set sights on second crest. There was some relief April 7 after the newest crest prediction came in lower than preliminary estimates. The Red River crested at 40.82 feet on March 28. The National Weather Service now projects a second crest between 38 and 40 feet in mid-April — a measure of good news after forecasters had given a 75 percent chance just recently that the river could hit 41 feet or more. “At 38 feet, boy, we're standing tall and maybe we can start to put this town back together again,” the Fargo mayor said. Engineers are confident that the sandbag dikes feverishly constructed in neighborhoods late last month can handle another round, with a little more work from weary residents. The dikes were built to 43 feet and remain there, and they protected Fargo and neighboring Moorhead, Minnesota — a metro area of about 128,000 people — from widespread damage. But they want residents to check both themselves and their sandbags for signs of fatigue. The city is also again asking for volunteers to help make sandbags the morning of April 8 at the Fargodome parking lot, in hopes of bumping up their stores from 200,000 to 500,000. Those will be used primarily to shore up dikes and fill leaks, officials said.
Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hw95ek5Sllmi4SoQ_N4HJywHE0ZAD97E6COO0

40. April 7, HS Daily Wire – (New York; New Jersey) New concept for New York, New Jersey storm barriers. One result of global warming is the rise in sea level — but scientists point out that sea levels do not rise evenly. Rather, some parts of the ocean
will experience more dramatic rise than others. Unfortunately for people who live on the east coast of the United States, models show that the level of the Atlantic Ocean will rise most precipitously off the mid-Atlantic and New England coast, submerging large parts of the eastern United States under water. To prevent such an event from happening, Halcrow was asked to provide ideas of what storm-surge barriers aimed at protecting the New York and New Jersey metropolitan region from severe coastal flooding might look like. Their idea is to build a barrier that would stretch across the entrance of the outer harbor of New York and New Jersey. The New York-New Jersey Outer Harbor Gateway involves a five-mile flood defense extending between the Rockaway Peninsula and Sandy Hook, plus the reinforcement of some 10 miles of the natural defenses along these low-lying peninsulas. The barrier would include two gates in the main navigation channel, with each gate having two leaves, each measuring the length of a football pitch. The barrier would also include smaller gates for two secondary navigation channels and 50 sluice gates, each 80 feet (24 meters) across. The concept would allow for a road to run along the top of the causeway connecting the two states. Halcrow’s concept is based on a similar project that the company has been involved with in St. Petersburg, where the Russian government has funded a 15-mile-long barrier, which is due for completion in 2010.

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