Top Stories

- According to the Associated Press, a fire at Columbus Chemical Industries’ warehouse in Columbus, Wisconsin erupted Monday night, causing about 140 homes around the plant to be evacuated. (See item 5)

- The Homer Horizon reports that a “chemical improvised device” exploded at a campus of Lockport Township High School in Lockport, Illinois on Monday, injuring as many as 14 students and staff members, although none of the injuries were life threatening. (See item 30)

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1. May 11, UpstreamOnline – (Louisiana) Blowout causes Louisiana evacuation. A blowout at a Haynesville Shale well in northeast Louisiana forced 15 families from their homes for about three days as contractors tried to stem the stream of natural gas shooting into the air. The Nabors-10H-1 well, operated by Oklahoma gas giant
Chesapeake Energy, blew out on May 8 around the town of Naborton. Crews got the blowout under control and it was no longer releasing gas by 3 p.m. May 10, a Chesapeake spokesman told UpstreamOnline. The director of corporate development for Louisiana said the blowout took place during completion of the well but the company was not sure exactly what caused it. No injuries were reported from the incident. Chesapeake paid hotel expenses for the evacuated families to stay in nearby Shreveport. Source: http://www.upstreamonline.com/live/article178190.ece

2. May 11, WSYR 9 Syracuse – (New York) **Power back on in Onondaga County.** The power is back on to the 10,000 homes in Onondaga County that lost power late during the evening of May 10. National Grid says a raccoon got into the substation on Teall Avenue and caused a small explosion that knocked out power. At one point, 6,000 people in Syracuse were in the dark. More than 3,000 in Salina and about 4,000 in DeWitt were also without power. The power was restored to everyone by 1:30 the morning of May 11. Source: http://www.9wsyr.com/mostpopular/story/Power-back-on-in-Onondaga-County/Yu0dlN-A20-Y9mnvZR_T3Q.cspx

3. May 11, Reuters – (Texas) **Shell says power restored at Deer Park refinery.** Shell Oil Co said on May 11 that power has been restored at its 332,000 barrel per day Deer Park, Texas, refinery, which will be restarted as soon as possible. “Depending on the progress of this process, we anticipate achieving normal rates sometime over the next several days,” the company said in a statement. Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1138586320090511

4. May 8, Reuters – (Indiana) **Workers evacuated after BP Whiting upset.** Between 300 and 400 workers were evacuated after a unit malfunction at BP Plc’s 410,000-barrel-per-day Whiting, Indiana refinery on May 8, according to a source familiar with refinery operations. The temporary evacuation was done out of “an abundance of caution,” the source said. The upset happened in a unit next to another unit undergoing an overhaul, the source said. Both the Whiting refinery’s crude unit and its gasoline-producing fluidic catalytic cracking unit are being worked on. The workers were evacuated for about 45 minutes until the problem was corrected, the source said. A BP spokesman told NWI.com, which is a news website in northern Indiana, no fire or injuries resulted from the malfunction. Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0849649720090508

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**Chemical Industry Sector**

5. May 12, Associated Press – (Wisconsin) **Wis. chemical plant fire chases people from homes.** A fire at a chemical plant’s warehouse in Columbus was being allowed to burn itself out Tuesday by authorities, who began allowing some evacuated residents to return home and said the air appeared to be safe. The fire at the Columbus Chemical Industries plant erupted Monday night; firefighters decided to withdraw and let it burn after explosions shook the building. About 140 homes around the plant were evacuated and
others were told to stay inside and to keep their windows closed because of the smoke. Several dozen people were allowed to return home Tuesday as emergency officials shrank the half-mile perimeter. The Dodge County Sheriff said air tests have not turned up any harmful levels of contaminants. Smoke continued to rise from the warehouse Tuesday afternoon and firefighters were not sure whether the fire was out. By Tuesday morning, more than a dozen firefighters and emergency workers had been taken to a hospital for decontamination. Columbus Chemical Industries provides chemicals to high-tech and pharmaceutical companies, among others, according to its Web site. No workers were at the plant at the time and it is not clear yet how the fire started, said the company’s executive vice president.

Source:
http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jR25r0OPwACgivyJxjOVU4nnt
snwD984S4D00

6. May 11, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – (Washington) Helena Chemical Company fined $41,600 for misbranded pesticide sold in LaCrosse, Wash. Helena Chemical Company will pay a $41,600 federal fine for the alleged distribution and sale of pesticides lacking up-to-date safety labels, according to an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency. At least ten times in 2007, Tennessee-based Helena Chemical Company sold and distributed an improperly labeled herbicide, Barrage HF, through its LaCrosse, Washington distributor Dusty Farms Cooperative. This herbicide is approved for use on food crops. The labels on the product lacked important updates to the First Aid Statement, which is a violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. The First Aid Statement provides initial first steps to take when accidental exposure occurs and may inform physicians and emergency responders of appropriate medical procedures for victims of poisoning. Helena Chemical Company, which is responsible for the integrity of all Barrage HF produced and sold through its distributors, has provided current labels to the Dusty Farms Cooperative and re-evaluated its label distribution process. The Washington State Department of Agriculture conducted the inspection that revealed the violations.

Source:
http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/db4ebf1f892e3fa0852575b3008178aa?Open
Document

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. May 11, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission – (National) NRC finds shipment of radioactive materials problem at Prairie Island nuclear station to be of low to moderate safety significance. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has determined that two violations of NRC regulations occurred during the packaging and shipping of radioactive material from the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant. These violations were determined to be of low to moderate safety significance. The two-unit plant, located in Welch, Minnesota, is operated by Northern States Power Company – Minnesota. On October 29, 2008, a rectangular container with radioactive equipment and tools used for refueling activities was shipped via an exclusive-use transport vehicle
from Prairie Island to a Westinghouse field office in Waltz Mill, Pennsylvania. Radiological surveys conducted before the shipment left the plant indicated that radiation levels of the package conformed to the NRC and Department of Transportation requirements. When the package arrived at Waltz Mill on October 31, radiological surveys showed that the maximum radiation level on the surface of the package, specifically on the bottom, was in excess of federal regulatory limits. The NRC reviewed the circumstances around the event and concluded that the increased radiation level on the surface of the package was caused by shifting of the radioactive equipment inside the package. They identified two violations of NRC regulations: (1) failure to appropriately prepare the package for shipment and (2) failure to train the workers involved in preparing the package to understand and carry out requirements for shipment of radioactive material. The incident had no negative impact on members of the public, the driver, or other workers.


8. May 9, St. Petersburg Times – (Florida) Nuclear plant to wipe out 765 acres of wetlands. Progress Energy’s plans to build a $17 billion nuclear plant in rural Levy County call for wiping out about 765 acres of wetlands, according to a public notice posted recently by the Army Corps of Engineers. The company had hoped to start producing power from the plant in 2016, but on May 1 announced that construction had been delayed 20 months because the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) would not allow it to begin construction before site and safety reviews were complete. In many places, the water table is above ground for half the year or longer, according to documents the company filed with the NRC. Most of the site lies in the 100-year flood plain, meaning after heavy rain, it is likely to remain inundated for some time. “That land is prone to flooding,” said a former park ranger who now runs Wild Florida Adventures Kayak Tours in Williston. No matter what the condition of the wetlands, he said, that should be a concern for a site where a nuclear plant will be built. “Any hurricane event would inundate the vicinity of the plant with storm surge,” the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council noted in a report. “On-site the plant and associated facilities may be especially vulnerable to flood hazard.” To build on such a soggy site, the utility plans to put up an impervious wall around the construction to divert water, then truck in enough fill dirt to put the plant 8 feet above the ground. What a Levy County native and an activist with the Environmental Alliance of North Florida finds disturbing about the site is that the plant will be pulling millions of gallons of water from the aquifer while destroying wetlands that recharge the underground supply.

Source: http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/wetlands/article999539.ece

Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. May 12, Denver Post – (Colorado) EPA rules more data needed to justify plant’s emission permit. State regulators must provide more information to justify the air-emission permit awarded to a Cemex Inc. cement plant near Lyons, the EPA has ruled. The EPA order came in response to a petition by the environmental group Rocky Mountain Clean Air Action, claiming the state Department of Public Health and
Environment improperly granted the permit. The EPA found that the state did not properly explain why tougher air-pollution controls were not imposed when the plant was overhauled in 1980 and 1985, as is typically required by the Clean Air Act.
Source: http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_12348305

Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. **May 11, Arizona Republic** – (Arizona; Florida) **Boeing relocating repair center from Mesa to Jacksonville.** A move to enhance the Southeast Valley’s aerospace presence was jolted May 11 with the Boeing Company’s acknowledgment that it is moving a fighter-jet structural repair center and its 60 jobs from Mesa, Arizona to Jacksonville, Florida. The objective is to consolidate repair operations for the F/A-18 Hornet with an existing modification facility for the aircraft at Jacksonville’s Cecil Commerce Center. The Jacksonville Economic Development Commission is expected to approve two years of free rent as part of the deal, said a Boeing spokesman. Jacksonville officials said Boeing intends to invest $3.3 million in the relocation, including $500,000 for building improvements at a hangar. The move has no impact on Boeing’s use of the airport for flight tests of the AH-64 Apache helicopter, company officials said.

11. **May 11, Associated Press** – (Ohio) **AF plans X-51 supersonic engine flight test.** The engine in an Air Force program designed to catapult planes from the atmosphere into space will get its first flight test in the fall with a skyscraping ride above the Pacific Ocean. Officials expect the X-51 eventually will be used to deploy satellites and for reconnaissance or other military missions. “The long-range goal of this for the Air Force is access to space,” said an Air Force Research Laboratory propulsion official who manages the X-51 program from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The aircraft, to be sent aloft October 27, will be sped up by an Army missile booster. When its special air-breathing jet engine kicks in, the vehicle will soar to six times the speed of sound. The October flight — and three other test flights planned in early 2010 — are designed to demonstrate the practicality of using the scramjet engine to power and control an aircraft at extreme speeds. The X-51 has been dubbed the “Waverider” because it stays aloft, in part, with lift generated by the shock waves of its own flight. The $246.5 million development program by the Air Force has been under way since December 2003. The price tag includes the four X-51s and their engines, government support, and research ongoing at Wright-Patterson and Edwards in conjunction with industry partners.

12. **May 9, Ventura County Star** – (California) **Water board waives fines against Boeing.** Water regulators May 8 waived fines for excess pollution in storm water runoff at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory near Simi Valley as had been requested by the land owner, Boeing Co. The 4-2 vote by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control
Board marked the second time in two years that it waived enforcement limits at two locations where rain drains off the field lab property and into the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Simi. The board’s decision, made at its meeting in Ventura, means Boeing will not face fines if runoff from the polluted former nuclear site and rocket-test facility contains excessive levels of contaminants. If that occurs, the company will be required to submit a plan of corrective action, which will be subject to review and approval by the water board’s staff. Activists charge that the board’s vote fails to protect the community. They note that the board previously ordered Boeing to remove contaminated soil from the site, but the soil is still in place, as is the order. The board’s vote related to a requirement for Boeing to install ecologically friendly filtering systems at the field lab. In 2007, the water board voted to suspend monitoring at the two runoff sites, known as outfalls eight and nine, and to allow the aerospace company time to put new filtering systems in place. Boeing was facing the prospect of having to comply with pollution limits and face fines if it exceeded those limits next month.


Banking and Finance Sector

13. May 11, New York Times – (New York) Lawyer pleads guilty in $400 million fraud. A prominent New York lawyer whom prosecutors have called a “Houdini of impersonation and false documents” pleaded guilty on May 11 to leading what the authorities have called a fraud scheme that bilked hedge funds and other investors out of at least $400 million. The lawyer, a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, sold $700 million worth of bogus promissory notes to investors, a federal indictment charged. He then used the proceeds to maintain a lavish lifestyle, according to the authorities. The defendant’s decision to admit guilt was not a surprise, as his lawyer had been suggesting for months that his client intended to plead guilty. The lawyer has said that the defendant felt “profound remorse,” accepted full responsibility for his crimes and had been cooperating in the attempt to untangle his scheme and track down assets that might be returned to victims.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/12/nyregion/12dreier.html?

14. May 11, Syracuse Post Standard – (New York) Romanian men charged in ATM scam in Cicero. Four men who were living in Florida allegedly made trips to Cicero, Rochester and New York City to install “skimming” devices on ATM machines and illegally retrieve account and password information. The men targeted the drive-up ATM of the Chase bank branch on East Circle Drive. Chase employees discovered the skimming device, which records the information from the magnetic strip of any card that passes through, said the resident agent in charge of the Syracuse office of the Secret Service. Since the investigation began, police determined that the suspects were at the Cicero bank on at least five occasions in November 2008, stealing about $40,000 from customers. The total amount they scamned was $1.8 million and most of it was wired to Eastern Europe. Although the agent would not comment on specific investigative techniques used to determine their identity, he said the police agencies in several
municipalities were working on similar cases with identical skimming devices and descriptions of vehicles. The 4 suspects were charged with conspiracy to commit credit card fraud, possession of 15 or more stolen debit card account numbers, use of one or more unauthorized access devices and aggravated identity theft.


15. May 11, New York Daily News – (New York) **ATMs on Staten Island rigged for identity theft; bandits steal $500G.** A band of brazen thieves ripped off hundreds of New Yorkers by rigging ATMs to steal account and password information from bank customers. They used the pilfered information to swipe half a million dollars from their victims’ bank accounts, the latest twist in increasingly aggressive identity-theft scams, police said. “This crew is sophisticated,” said a Deputy Inspector who is the head of the NYPD’s special investigations division. “And they are coming up with new ways to steal your identity every day.” The NYPD is hunting the rigged-ATM crew after the havoc they created stealing from Sovereign Bank customers. They sauntered into Staten Island branches on Henderson Avenue and Amboy Road and installed devices on the bank’s ATM machines, police said. The first, a skimmer, went over the slot where customers insert their ATM cards. The skimmer reads and stores the personal information kept in the magnetic strip on the back of the bank card. The second device was a tiny camera hidden in the lighted signs over the ATM. The pinhole camera lens pointed directly onto the ATM keypad and filmed victims typing in their supposedly secret PIN codes. The crew stole more than $500,000 from more than 250 victims — money the bank is now reimbursing.


16. May 10, Alibaba – (Florida) **U.S. FDIC to open new office to handle bank closings.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp said on May 8 it will open up an additional East Coast office to deal with failed banks. The FDIC, which insures the deposits of U.S. banks and handles the receiverships of failed institutions, said it will open a temporary satellite office in Jacksonville, Florida that will provide space for up to 500 staff members. The new office reflects the expanded demands on the FDIC as bank failures continue at a strong pace following the dramatic drop in house prices and mounting credit losses in the banking sector. So far this year, 32 banks have failed, compared with 25 bank failures in 2008 and only three in 2007. The agency said the new office will manage receivership and liquidate assets from failed institutions primarily located in the Eastern states.

17. **May 12, South Florida Sun-Sentinel** – (Florida) **Miami: Jet emergency false alarm.** A false hijacking alarm caused fighter jets to escort an American Airlines flight onto the tarmac at Miami International Airport, authorities said. An airline spokesman said Flight 535 was arriving from San Juan, Puerto Rico, on May 11 when the false alarm was reported. The plane’s transponder frequency was inadvertently switched to a frequency that indicates a hijacking, he said. Fighter jets from Homestead Air Force Base escorted the plane onto a remote area of the tarmac at 1:42 p.m. Police secured the plane. No one was injured. The plane was carrying 148 passengers and six crew members.


18. **May 11, Daily Breeze** – (California) **Luggage container is sucked into JAL jetliner’s engine at LAX.** A Japan Airlines jetliner bound for Tokyo was damaged May 11 when a luggage container was sucked into one of the engines as the plane pushed back from a gate at Los Angeles International Airport. No injuries were reported among the 247 passengers and 17 crew members aboard Flight 61, which was grounded after the 1:30 p.m. accident, according to a Japan Airlines spokeswoman. The damaged Boeing 747-400 jetliner was towed to a remote hangar, where federal investigators examined damage to one of the engines on the left wing, said a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. “A baggage cart was passing by when the plane somehow ingested the baggage container into one of the engines,” he said.


19. **May 11, KSL 5 Salt Lake City** – (Utah) **Delta airplane takes plunge near Salt Lake airport.** The pilot of Delta flight 1172 from Los Angeles to Salt Lake was forced to send the plane into a steep plunge to avoid another plane May 10. Passengers say the captain came on the intercom after the plane had stabilized and explained what happened. “There was an aircraft that wasn’t changing its course, and so he had to maneuver the plane so we wouldn’t crash into it,” a passenger explained. Federal Aviation Administration officials say: “The FAA has not received a report from the pilot or air traffic control regarding a near miss on Delta flight number 1172 from Los Angeles to Salt Lake. That, however, does not mean it did not happen.” In such cases, reports are not always filed immediately.


20. **May 9, News Herald** – (Florida) **Pilots cited for safety, lease violations.** Airport officials cited members of a private pilots’ association based at the Panama City airport with numerous safety and lease violations and threatened termination of their lease if the breaches were not corrected. In a letter dated April 24 to Bay Aircraft Owners Inc., an airport Executive Director said pilots needed to correct safety violations of fuel storage and remove non-aviation items from hangars. The violations were discovered after a routine annual inspection. At least one pilot, however, insisted the letter was retaliation for the general aviation pilots’ continued opposition to relocating the airport to a new location near West Bay. In his official response, the Director assured pilots that Bay Aircraft would comply with the terms of the lease but asked for clarification on what items were not allowed. He also requested additional time, if needed, to bring the
hangars into compliance. The Airport Authority Vice Chairman said May 8 part of the misunderstanding was the annual inspection was more detailed this time than in the past. The pilots’ association has been wrangling legally with the airport over the conditions under which its lease would transfer to the new Panama City-Bay County International Airport under construction near West Bay.

For another story, see item 7

**Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

**Agriculture and Food Sector**

21. *May 12, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **EPA pulls 2 moth pesticides; more in pipeline.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has revoked approval of two moth pesticides pulled from aerial spraying over a dozen California counties in 2008 when residents argued in a Santa Cruz court that the government failed to adequately assess health and environmental risks. The EPA determined in April of this year that two Checkmate products were not needed because other products are available. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which has promised no new aerial spraying in urban areas, is breeding and releasing sterile moths as a way to keep down the population. Citing the potential loss of millions of dollars in crops and ornamentals, the Federal Department of Agriculture asked the EPA for the emergency exemption that led to use of the pesticides on 83,500 acres without the state evaluation and approval. A department spokesman said no new pheromone will be selected until the state completes an environmental review, which is expected in June. Meanwhile, scientists have trapped 88,000 moths in 15 counties, most of them in the Bay Area, since 2007, he said. In the past year, scientists have produced thousands of light brown apple moths in labs, which they will radiate to sterilize and then release.

Source: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/05/12/BAS717HFOR.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/05/12/BAS717HFOR.DTL)

22. *May 11, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **Carbofuran pesticide residues in food revoked.** The EPA has revoked regulations that permitted small residues of the pesticide carbofuran in food. Carbofuran is a toxic insecticide that does not meet current U.S. food safety standards. EPA’s action will eliminate residues of carbofuran in food, including all imports, in a move to protect people, especially children, from dietary risk. Ultimately, EPA will remove this pesticide from the market. EPA is proceeding to cancel the remaining carbofuran registrations, or licenses, which will address risks to pesticide applicators and birds in treated fields. In 2006, EPA identified significant dietary, ecological and worker risks from the use of carbofuran and
concluded that all uses must be cancelled. The final carbofuran tolerance rule becomes effective in December 2009. EPA is encouraging growers to switch to safer pesticides or other environmentally preferable pest control strategies. Carbofuran is used on a very small percentage of the U.S. food supply and EPA’s action is focused on promoting greater food safety.

Source: http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/30118530d0b774d7852575b30059aa8c?OpenDocument

23. May 11, Farm and Ranch Guide – (North Dakota) ND cattle herd tests negative for TB; quarantine lifted. The cattle herd at the center of a potential tuberculosis outbreak in southwestern North Dakota has been found free of the disease and has been released from quarantine. “North Dakota’s tuberculosis-free status remains in effect, and that is very good news,” the state’s Agriculture Commissioner said Friday, May 8. “Thanks to the efforts of the State Board of Animal Health, state veterinarian’s office, federal officials and to the cooperation of the animals’ owners, the situation was quickly and efficiently wrapped up.” Testing of two of the four neighboring herds is complete with results on the third neighboring herd expected this week. Testing of the fourth neighboring herd will begin this month. Last October, a state veterinarian was notified that a cow originating from southwest North Dakota was identified at a Minnesota slaughter facility as a suspect for tuberculosis. The diagnosis was later confirmed, and a herd investigation was initiated.


For more stories, see items 6, 25, and 44

Water Sector

24. May 12, Delmarva Daily Times – (Maryland) Investigation continues into wastewater plant. The City of Salisbury remains short on answers surrounding malfunctions in the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade, while a specialist continues to investigate ways to boost the technology’s efficiency. The city announced Monday a recent meeting with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) had taken place to discuss effluent discharge levels, and some recommendations had been made by a recently hired specialist from Oklahoma State University. The upgrade has been carefully planned and engineered over a period of more than 10 years. The city commissioned a plan for state-of-the-art technology that has recently proven to have unique problems, which city officials said required the hiring of the specialist. The city attorney told the city council during a meeting Monday night that the city’s primary goal remains to adjust the plant’s performance to meet MDE requirements by removing more nitrogen from effluent through the biological nutrient reduction system. “The BNR process and filters have not been producing the results we needed,” said the city administrator. “(The specialist) is looking at those and how they are operating and suggesting changes we can make to
improve our performance.” The city attorney presented the suggestions made by the specialist so far, including minor tweaks to the current plant function, as well as continued investigation of all plant structures and fixtures. Whether the city faces fines due to its failure to meet an upgraded nutrient removal plan scheduled to take place May 1 remains under deliberation by MDE.

Source: http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20090512/NEWS01/905120331/1002/Investigation+continues+into+wastewater+plant

25. May 8, Tri-City Herald – (Washington) Ellensburg plant fined $80K for ammonia. An $80,000 fine was imposed this week on Twin City Foods in Ellensburg for allowing nearly 4,500 pounds of liquid ammonia to flow into the city’s waste water treatment plant. Washington State Department of Ecology officials penalized the owner of the vegetable plant after city officials discovered high levels of ammonia that violated its effluent permit limits into the Yakima River. The ammonia release occurred during a reconstruction project in the engine room of the cold storage plant’s refrigeration system February 18-23, said a spokeswoman for Ecology. “It took (city officials) several days to figure it out because they didn’t know the source of the ammonia,” she said. “The contractor just sent it straight down the floor drain, when they should have collected it and disposed of it a different way. They are supposed to have management plans for handling these kinds of hazardous materials,” she said. There was no evidence of a fish kill, she said. “The big problem was it knocked out the waste water treatment plant and there was a risk to workers exposed to air releases of ammonia at the treatment plant,” she said. Twin City Foods is allowed to discharge process waste water to the city’s water treatment plant from November to March under conditions of a water quality permit.

Source: http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/571040.html

26. May 7, OC Weekly – (California) State may fine South County spewers of ocean waste $204,000. The South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA), which collects, treats, reuses, and disposes of waste water for ten South County agencies, and the South Coast Water District (SCWD), an independent agency that serves the water and sewer needs of 40,000 residents in Dana Point, South Laguna, and north San Clemente, face a $204,000 fine from the state’s Regional Water Control Board. According to the board’s San Diego Region staff, the SOCWA and SCWD violated state permit restrictions concerning the discharge of brine and waste water from the district’s Groundwater Recovery Facility and into the San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall. The board will consider imposing, modifying, or suspending the recommended fine when it meets in San Diego on May 13. The regional board’s assistant executive officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint against the two agencies on February 27 for 68 alleged violations of “total suspended solids, settleable solids, and turbidity effluent limitations that occurred from August 2007 through October 2008.”

Source: http://blogs.ocweekly.com/navelgazing/a-clockwork-orange/state-may-fine-south-county-sp/

For another story, see item 44
27. **May 12, Reuters** – (International) New virus could still mutate, spark pandemic: WHO. The new H1N1 flu virus could still mutate into a more virulent form and spark an influenza pandemic that could be expected to circle the globe up to three times, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday. The impact of any pandemic would vary, as a virus that causes only mild illness in countries with strong health systems can become “devastating” in those with weak health systems, shortages of drugs and poorly equipped hospitals, it said. The new virus, commonly referred to as swine flu, “appears to be more contagious than seasonal influenza” and nearly the world’s whole population lacks immunity to the new disease, the WHO said in a document issued overnight entitled “Assessing the severity of an influenza pandemic.” The WHO’s acting assistant director-general said on Monday it was not possible to produce a scientific assessment of the severity of the outbreak, on the lines of a hurricane warning, because of the unpredictable nature of the disease and the fact that different people and different countries experience the flu in different ways.


28. **May 12, Dow Jones** – (International) Roche to increase flu drug production to meet demand. Swiss drugs maker Roche Holding AG said Tuesday it will increase production of antiviral drug Tamiflu to meet a fresh surge in demand for the influenza treatment due to the spread of the A(H1N1) swine flu virus. Roche said it will increase production to 36 million treatments a month by year-end, if required. More immediately, Roche plans to produce 110 million treatment courses over the next five months. Roche also decided to make another donation to the World Health Organization of 5.65 million packs of Tamiflu, which has shown to be effective against the swine flu. The WHO has said that it will be important to continue monitoring the (H1N1), or swine flu, virus and in particular to watch out for possible mutations that could turn it into a more dangerous one.


29. **May 11, Softpedia.com** – (Virginia) Virginia Department of Health Professions refutes hacker’s claim. Following a security incident on the website of the Prescription Monitoring Program, after which an unknown hacker allegedly held sensitive data for ransom, the Virginia Department of Health Professions (DHP) says that the information is safe on its backup servers. The criminal investigation continues. On April 30, the department officials noticed that the website serving the Prescription Monitoring Program had been defaced and was displaying a ransom demand. All DHP computer systems were immediately taken offline and forensic, as well as security experts were called in to assess the damage. “The entire DHP system has been shut down since Thursday to protect the security of the program data, and state authorities including the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) and the Virginia State Police were
notified immediately upon identifying the potential breach,” Virginia DHP’s director explained. Fortunately, the hacker’s claim to have destroyed all usable copies of the data proved to be false. “We are satisfied that all data was properly backed up and that these backup files have been secured,” she announced. Critical systems are slowly being restored, however, until full service will be available again.


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**Government Facilities Sector**

30. *May 12, Homer Horizon* – (Illinois) **Bomb threat closes LTHS campuses again today.** For the third time in a week, Lockport Township High School in Lockport is on alert after a bomb threat. On May 12, a “specific threat” was anonymously phoned into the voicemail system at the high school, forcing officials to dismiss classes at both the East and Central campuses at 9:15 a.m. The superintendent said the voicemail featured a “computer generated voice” that included a threat directed to the East campus. In a press release, LTHS District 205 officials said they are taking “preventative measures,” including a canine search of both campuses, in response to the threat. On May 11, what officials called a “chemical improvised device” exploded inside LTHS’s Central campus, injuring as many as 14 students and staff members, although none of the injuries were life threatening. School and police officials did not believe that incident had any connection with a threatening message found on a bathroom wall at LTHS’s East campus on May 6. The small, pencil-written message read “Schools bombed Weds,” according to the high school’s director of development and public relations. An investigation from the Lockport Police Department is ongoing.

Source: http://www.homerhorizon.com/Articles-c-2009-05-12-195416.112113_Bomb_threat_closes_LTHS_campuses_again_today.html

31. *May 12, Clarksville Leaf Chronicle* – (Kentucky; Tennessee) **Fort Campbell holds WMD practice drill.** Two suspicious packages were found, removed, and quarantined May 6 at Fort Campbell during an annual mock disaster response exercise. One package was found to be leaking a “white powder,” and 21 soldiers were treated for their make-believe contamination. “We’re testing the ability and capability of our first responders,” said the director of emergency services at Fort Campbell. The exercise began earlier than planned when someone noticed the package and called 911 — not the Emergency Operations Center, as is protocol. The area was immediately evacuated, and those believed to have come in contact with the package were quarantined and later treated for their conditions. Fort Campbell firefighters, police, military police and the Criminal Investigation Division were all called in to respond as they would during a real event. During the exercise, the Fort Campbell director of emergency services said he was “pleased with the initial response,” but could not fully evaluate the exercise until an After Action Review is conducted, where strengths and weaknesses will be identified.

Source: http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20090512/CHRONICLE/905120301

32. *May 11, Space.com* – (International) **Space shuttle launches to save Hubble telescope.**
The space shuttle Atlantis blasted off from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida sky at 2:01 p.m. Monday to kick off a long-awaited mission to save the Hubble Space Telescope. It is the first time in seven years that astronauts are returning to Hubble. The mission, NASA’s last flight to the iconic space telescope, has been delayed since a part broke on the telescope last year and the servicing and upgrade plan had to be revised. Atlantis is due to arrive at Hubble on Wednesday, May 13. The shuttle experienced two minor glitches — a circuit breaker problem and a flaky sensor that sounded spurious alarms during liftoff — but neither had an impact on launch. If all goes well, Atlantis astronauts will upgrade Hubble to be more powerful and capable than ever before.

Source: [http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/090511-sts125-launch-day.html](http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/090511-sts125-launch-day.html)

33. May 11, The Log – (California) **PWC detained after buzzing aircraft carrier.** The Coast Guard detained three personal watercraft riders for more than an hour after they were said to be operating too close to a U.S. warship as it entered San Diego Harbor. Crewmen aboard a 33-foot Coast Guard patrol boat providing security for the inbound aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan allegedly witnessed two men and a woman aboard PWCs racing at high speeds within 500 yards of the 1,092-foot nuclear-powered warship. Doing so is a violation of the Naval Vessel Protection Zone.


For another story, see item 12

**Emergency Services Sector**

34. May 11, WXIA 11 Atlanta – (Georgia) **911 director: serious ‘issues’ this weekend.** The head of Atlanta’s 911 center admitted to 11Alive News that there have been some serious problems with emergency calls this weekend. “We had some issues with 911 this weekend…phone calls were going into hold cues for too long. There were delays in getting them answered…some calls got kicked over to other jurisdictions,” said the director of Atlanta’s 911 call center. He said engineers were called in to fix those issues. Some of them are from out of state. Atlanta’s 911 operators just moved into a new facility last week. When asked if the new building and setup is part of the problem, the director said that they are investigating that possibility. Saturday afternoon, around 4, a fire broke out at a home on Dollar Mill Road in Southwest Atlanta. Numerous people say they called 911 only to get a recording. Some say they were put on hold for more than 10 minutes.


35. May 11, Daily Astorian – (Oregon) **Flare hoax cost Coast Guard $50,000.** The U.S. Coast Guard is hoping to recover costs for an early-morning search conducted recently after two emergency flares were sighted over Youngs Bay. The flares ended up being a hoax, and the cost for the response — more than four hours of helicopter and two hours of motor boat rescue search time — totaled over $50,000. The Astoria Police Department has arrested a 31 year-old Astoria man for the prank, and for the moment he...
is charged with two counts of initiating a false report. The director of the Coast Guard’s Search and Rescue command center for Group Astoria said the Coast Guard’s Investigative Services department is looking into the incident and collecting facts that will soon be sent to the Coast Guard’s District Legal Department for review. They will then meet with the federal prosecutor to determine if federal charges will be filed. If federal penalties are pursued, the man could face six years in prison, a $250,000 criminal fine, a $5,000 civil fine and reimbursing the U.S. Coast Guard for the costs of performing the search.


Information Technology

36. May 12, SC Magazine – (International) **Twitter users reveal personal information in latest ‘trend’ for ‘porn names.’** Many users of micro-blogging website Twitter have inadvertently shared personal information via a new trending topic. The topic, named ‘Twitterpornnames,’ based on a popular drinking game, encourages users to reveal the name of their first pet and the street they grew up to create their ‘porn name,’ that they are then sharing on Twitter. However, industry experts have warned users not to give out their personal details and claimed that the trend, which has been running through most of May 12, is a scam engineered to steal people’s details. A senior technology consultant at Sophos claimed that by revealing such personal details, ‘thousands of people are potentially making life easy for identity thieves eager to mine information from the micro-blogging website.’ The consultant said, “The problem is that many sites (such as web email providers) may ask you what the name of your first pet was if you ever forget your password and wish to reset it. So, a hacker could grab details like your pet’s name to try and crack into your email account.” Meanwhile, the senior security advisor at Trend Micro claimed that he was not sure if it was ‘conceived as a phishing scheme at the outset or as a reinvention of the playground/pub conversation,’ but believed that any disclosure of personal information is unwise.


37. May 11, Channel Web – (International) **Adobe to patch critical Adobe Reader, Acrobat vulnerabilities.** Adobe is issuing patches on May 12 for critical Adobe Reader vulnerabilities that could allow remote attackers to launch malicious code on users’ computers through infected PDF files. The impending update will repair critical Adobe Reader and Acrobat Reader errors in versions 9.1 and prior for Windows, Mac and Unix systems. The patch also will cover Adobe Reader 9.1 and 8.1.4 for Linux. If exploited, the flaw could allow attackers to launch denial of service attacks, crash a system or distribute malware that could take control of a user’s computer and steal information. Reports indicate that the vulnerability stems from an error in the “getAnnots” JavaScript function, according to the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team. In an effort to mitigate the risk, the federal agency recommended that users disable JavaScript in
Adobe Reader. To disable JavaScript, users are advised to select the JavaScript category under the “Edit:Preferences” tab and uncheck the “Enable Acrobat JavaScript” option. The San Jose, California-based company issued a security advisory in April warning users that the critical flaw affected Adobe Reader 9.1 and all previous versions of Adobe Reader and Acrobat Reader. So far, security experts say that there are no known “in the wild” attacks exploiting the vulnerability, but that likely will change as hackers get a hold of the exploit code and take advantage of users who have failed to update their systems.

Source:
http://www.crn.com/security/217400326;jsessionid=A4R5D114Y0TKIQSNDLPSKHS CJUNN2JVN

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.

Communications Sector

38. **May 10, Woodward News** – (Oklahoma) **Woodward now has redundancy system.** Woodward, Oklahoma will no longer be cut off from the rest of the country. This was the message sent during a luncheon held at the Northwestern Oklahoma State University-Woodward campus celebrating the completion of a redundancy telephone system by AT&T and Pioneer Telephone. The redundancy line will ensure that if AT&T’s primary fiber-optic cable between Enid and Woodward goes out of service, calls can still be made outside of the city. The calls will be transferred on Pioneer Telephone’s line, which runs south through Seiling. If the Pioneer line has a problem, then their phone calls will be routed through AT&T’s line.


39. **May 10, KPHO 5 Phoenix** – (Arizona) **Parents of burned boy seek answers.** The father of a 17-year-old New River boy badly burned in an explosion May 8 in Anthem returned to the scene May 11 with his attorney searching for clues to the blast. The young boy is suffering from severe burns on his face and arms after a service entrance section exploded while he walked by at Anthem Community Park. The device is an input for power to a Sprint Wireless cell phone antenna at the park. Arizona Public Service Company said the device is the property of Sprint, which is still investigating the incident. Despite being out in the open and clearly marked as dangerous, some people said they feel the power boxes are well protected and not a safety threat. But others expressed concern. Officials from Sprint said they are still collecting information, but say the box is secure. Warning tape has been put up around the area around the charred box.

Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *May 12, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Berlin, NH plagued by fires.** Four fires — three considered suspicious — have kept firefighters busy in Berlin, over the past several days. Officials said Berlin has been dealing with chronic arson for the past seven years. WMUR reports some have said that Berlin is prone to arson because it is a depressed city with high unemployment that is overstocked with old, vacant buildings. On May 2, firefighters responded to a fire at a vacant apartment building; someone set a fire under a staircase. On May 9, someone set fire to junk inside a garage. On May 10, Fagin’s Pub caught fire. That one was ruled electrical. Early May 12, crews were roused again to fight a fire at a storage facility, surrounded by vacant buildings. Source: [http://www.wcax.com/global/story.asp?s=10344769](http://www.wcax.com/global/story.asp?s=10344769)

41. *May 11, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Helena YMCA evacuated after chemical leak.** A leaking container of acid used to treat swimming pools prompted the evacuation of the Helena YMCA and sent one person to the hospital for observation. The YMCA’s director said an employee reported that she smelled an acidic odor coming from the room where pool chemicals are stored on the morning of May 11. The employee was taken to St. Peter’s Hospital, but was unharmed. No injuries were reported. The Helena Fire Department determined that the chemical was hydrochloric acid, which is used to balance the alkalinity of water in swimming pools. Police closed off the building, the parking lot and the nearby skate park. Source: [http://www.kxmb.com/News/374931.asp](http://www.kxmb.com/News/374931.asp)

42. *May 11, Patriot-News* – (Pennsylvania) **White powder on welcome mats scares Hummelstown residents.** Several residents of the Brownstone Manor Apartments in Hummelstown were scared after a white powder was discovered in a hallway, but the powder turned out to be flour. The property manager said a tenant heard a loud crash at his door, and opened it to find a small dent in the door and a pile of white powder on his welcome mat. The tenant called the police. Twelve apartments were evacuated, as police, fire crews, and a hazardous materials team arrived. Source: [http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2009/05/white_powder_on_welcome_mats.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2009/05/white_powder_on_welcome_mats.html)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

43. *May 12, Payson Roundup* – (Arizona) **Tonto National Forest begins fire restrictions May 14.** Drought conditions, hot temperatures, and increased fire danger have resulted in fire restrictions for the Tonto National Forest beginning Thursday, May 14 at 8 a.m. The forest will prohibit most types of fire or fire-causing activities across the entire forest. “Because of ongoing drought and dry forest conditions, fire restrictions are
needed to protect forest users, structures and natural resources from the increased potential for dangerous wildland fires,” said the Tonto National Forest Supervisor.

Source: http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2009/may/12/tonto_national_forest_begins_fire_restrictions_may/

Dams Sector

44. May 12, Muncie Star Press – (Indiana) **Millions of gallons of hog manure spilled.**

Indiana State officials are investigating the possibly intentional release of an estimated 4 million to 5 million gallons of manure from the lagoon of the abandoned Muncie Sow Unit hog farm in Eaton over the weekend. The lagoon’s dike appeared “to have a notch in it,” said a spokeswoman for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). “Somebody took a trackhoe and dug down into it (the dike) and dumped all the waste manure into the ditch, and it ran to the river,” said a retiree who owns farm ground and lives nearby. After IDEM staff responded to the leak, the dike was repaired late Sunday afternoon. “We continue to assess the impacts downstream on (a ditch) and the Mississinewa River,” the spokeswoman said. “There were observations of dead fish.” However, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources had not yet provided IDEM the extent of the fish kill. On Saturday, a day before the dike was opened, the Star Press reported that IDEM was planning to remove 4.5 million gallons of manure from the 12-million gallon lagoon because it was too full. The agency is also emptying manure from pits below barns. IDEM is paying a contractor 9 cents a gallon to dispose of the manure at an Indianapolis wastewater treatment facility because no local facilities would accept it. It would be cheaper for IDEM — only 2 cents a gallon — to land apply the manure as fertilizer to local farm fields. However, a soggy spring has made it difficult for producers to get their land applications done. Muncie Sow Unit was scheduled to be sentenced in Delaware County the week of May 4 for pleading guilty to recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally failing to maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard in the lagoon. The sentencing was postponed until June 3.

Source: http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20090512/NEWS01/905120321/1002/Millions+of+gallons+of+hog+manure+spilled

45. May 12, Hillsboro Argus – (Oregon) **Seismic concerns complicate Scoggins Dam project.** The possibility of a quake along the fault off the Oregon Coast is impacting a project of major significance to Hillsboro and its Washington County neighbors. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is evaluating the safety of Scoggins Dam in light of scientists’ increased understanding of the Cascadia Subduction Zone, the major fault line that runs off the Oregon Coast and the possibility of a 9.0 quake along that fault. In August 2008, the bureau drilled a series of holes at the dam’s slope to extract rock and soil layer samples down to bedrock. Data from those samples are now undergoing analysis, and a report should be issued by October, according to a geologist with the bureau’s Pacific Northwest region offices in Boise, Idaho. Meanwhile, partners in the Tualatin Basin Water Supply Project are equally interested in these same safety
considerations, but because their team is working under tighter time constraints, they are moving ahead with their own analysis. The team is weighing alternative designs to raise the height of Scoggins Dam by 40 feet and increase the holding capacity of Henry Hagg Lake to meet the region’s future potable water needs. Clean Water Services is a lead partner for this project. A spokesman said the partners have hired Kleinfelder Water Inc. to analyze data from an additional 14 holes drilled at the dam site, in addition to data from the bureau’s borings. Kleinfelder is building computer models to simulate the effects of a 9.0 quake lasting for 2 minutes along the subduction zone. Meanwhile, the project’s design team has come up with several alternative models to make Scoggins Dam safer, yet still meet the project’s larger goals, on schedule, with construction between 2012 and 2014.

Source: http://blog.oregonlive.com/hillsboroargus/2009/05/seismic_concerns_complicate_sc.html

46. **May 11, Times-Picayune** – (Louisiana) **St. Bernard residents question status of levees.** As the Corps of Engineers wraps up designs for a nearly 30-mile ring of concrete walls and floodgates to protect St. Bernard Parish, corps representatives got an earful of questions May 11 from flood-weary residents wondering where they stand now. All levee improvements meant to protect the New Orleans area from a hurricane with a 1 percent chance of occurrence in any year are scheduled to be completed in 2011, but construction has not begun on any of the Chalmette loop levee system. Levee upgrades meant to protect St. Bernard from a so-called 100-year storm will involve earthen levees capped with concrete T-walls for a total height of between 29 and 31 feet. The ring will extend along the shoreline of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet from Bayou Bienvenue, east of where Paris Road crosses the Intracoastal Waterway, down to Verret and then back west to meet the Mississippi River at Caernarvon, near the border of Plaquemines Parish. Although construction on the concrete walls has not started, a senior corps project manager for St. Bernard said levee upgrades so far have raised the ring levee to 20 feet high. “That’s higher than they’ve ever been in St. Bernard Parish,” he said. But a resident disputed that interpretation, saying a series of utility pipelines across the old levee have not yet been removed, leaving gaps in the new earthen flood barriers.

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