Top Stories

- The Alamogordo Daily News reports that utility company PNM is still trying to determine the cause of a power outage during Tuesday morning after an estimated 31,205 customers in Alamogordo, Tularosa, and Ruidoso lost electricity. (See item 1)
- According to the Associated Press, a fire Monday at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center in New York City sent nearly 20 people to the emergency room and forced the evacuation of hundreds of patients and staff. (See item 30)

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Energy Sector

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

1. **May 20, Alamogordo Daily News** – (New Mexico) **Massive power outage occurs.**
PNM is still trying to determine the cause of a power outage during the morning on May 19 after an estimated 31,205 customers in Alamogordo, Tularosa and Ruidoso lost electricity, a spokesman said. A senior corporate communications representative said the
outage started around 8:34 a.m., but all customers had power restored by 9:08 a.m. “One of our 115-kilovolt lines tripped,” he said. “The cause is still unknown, but our transmission staff is investigating it. We’re hoping the cause will be determined in a few days.” In Alamogordo and Tularosa, the power outage started at 8:34 a.m. with all power restored at 8:59 a.m. Ruidoso’s power was turned back on at 9:08 a.m. he said Alamogordo had 17,546 customers without power, Tularosa had 1,733, and 11,926 in Ruidoso. “Despite having a fairly big outage, we were able to restore most customers in all three cities in 30 minutes,” the spokesman said. At Mountain View Middle School in Alamogordo, students had to be evacuated because of a fluorescent light short-out during the power failure. “It happened shortly after the outage,” an APS safety coordinator said. “Our maintenance people had to go around the school to check refrigerators and other electrical equipment, too.” An Alamogordo Department of Public Safety sergeant said the city had no major traffic accidents or incidents during the outage.

Source: [http://www.alamogordonews.com/ci_12406540](http://www.alamogordonews.com/ci_12406540)

2. **May 19, Reuters** – (Texas) *Shell says returning Deer Park crude unit to normal.* Shell Oil Co said during the evening of May 19 that it planned to restore a crude unit at its 333,700 barrel per day Deer Park, Texas, refinery to normal operations by the morning of May 20. The 270,000 bpd crude unit malfunctioned late morning of May 19. The unit was secured and stabilized by the afternoon of May 19, Shell said.


3. **May 19, Austin Business Journal** – (Texas) *Austin Energy launches power outage tracking site.* Austin Energy has launched a new online tool that tracks power outages 24/7. The Austin Energy Storm Center at www.austinenergy.com features a map of the utility’s entire service area. The Storm Center also provides a “Summary” tab that will show the total number of outages in the utility’s service area and the total number of customers without power at any given time. Users can see the total number of customers currently without power by ZIP code as well as the total number of customers served within each ZIP code. The Storm Center is currently available by computer, but plans are underway to make the site available through smartphones like Blackberries and iPhones.


4. **May 19, Associated Press** – (Colorado) *Xcel Energy boosts power of Colorado plant.* Two new units have boosted the capacity at Xcel Energy’s Fort St. Vrain plant to nearly 1,000 megawatts, making it the largest gas-fired power plant in the Colorado. The plant near Platteville, about 40 miles northeast of Denver, will be able to generate enough electricity for 750,000 homes. The new units will be used when demand is high and will also provide backup for existing plants. Minneapolis-based Xcel Energy says the combustion turbines use advanced technology to reduce nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide emissions. There are now six gas-fired units at Fort St. Vrain, originally a nuclear power plant.

Chemical Industry Sector

5. May 20, Northwest Herald – (Illinois) **County wants to halt chemical company over spills.** County officials want a judge to ban Chemtool from operating its rural Crystal Lake plant until it fixes sewage and unknown chemical spills. A judge declined to immediately grant the request May 19 but scheduled a series of four hearings starting June 9 on the county’s allegations. Chemtool, which manufactures and distributes lubricants, has its corporate headquarters and research facility on 58 acres at 8200 Ridgefield Road. The McHenry County Health Department received a complaint of possible chemical taste in drinking water and possible pumping of sewage onto the ground surface at the Chemtool facility January 23, according to the lawsuit the county filed May 18. A March 4 inspection found sewage spilling onto the ground and into a dry well on the property, as well as soils stains that apparently came from the railroad tracks but went to wetlands on the property. Later, the runoff in ruts between the wetlands and the railroad tracks contained grease, and a wetland northwest of the facility had an oily sheen to the water but no insects, larva or other expected wildlife, according to the lawsuit.

Source: [http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2009/05/19/90434098/index.xml](http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2009/05/19/90434098/index.xml)

6. May 19, USA Today – (National) **Rail heads petition to stop moving toxins.** Railroad companies are pressing federal regulators to cut back on trains carrying hazardous materials through urban areas, saying they fear a catastrophic release of toxic chemicals in a large city. The companies also fear billions in legal claims if toxic materials spill during a derailment or act of sabotage. Rail industry associations are petitioning to allow railroads for the first time to refuse to carry chemicals such as chlorine over long distances. Federal law requires railroads to transport such materials, which are used in manufacturing, agriculture and water treatment. The companies’ move is opposed by the U.S. Presidential Administration and others who say railroads are the safest way to move toxic materials. If trucks end up carrying materials that railroads reject, “that would pose a much greater danger,” said a spokeswoman for Citizens for Rail Safety, a Massachusetts advocacy group. The railroad petition is the latest effort to address the danger posed by the 110,000 carloads of toxic chemicals rail companies carry each year. Navy researchers have said an attack on a chemical-carrying train could kill 100,000 people. This year, Union Pacific refused to carry chlorine from a plant in Utah to Texas and Louisiana. Rail cars would pass through Salt Lake City, Kansas City and Fort Worth, exposing millions of people to “remote but deadly risks,” the railroad said in a February petition filed with the Surface Transportation Board, which regulates railroads.

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. **May 19, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission** – (Illinois) **Loss of emergency response data system (ERDS) due to network service not functioning.** On May 19 at the Quad Cities nuclear power plant in Illinois, it was identified that ERDS was unavailable for approximately 65 minutes. It was determined that a network service responsible for broadcasting ERDS data was not functioning. ERDS was restored when the network service was restarted. The cause of the service interruption is under investigation. The NRC Resident Inspector has been notified. The State of Illinois will be notified. Source: [http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html#en45080](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html#en45080)

8. **May 18, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission** – (National) **NRC seeking comments on proposed rule amending emergency preparedness requirements for licensed nuclear facilities.** Published in the Federal Register on May 18, the NRC is seeking comments on a proposed rule that would change emergency preparedness requirements for operating nuclear power plants, for those that might be licensed and built in the future, and for research and test reactors. The proposed rule would limit the duties of a plant’s onsite emergency responders to ensure they are not overburdened during an emergency event, and require specific provisions to protect them and other plant personnel during a hostile action event. In addition, the proposed rule would require all nuclear power plants to incorporate hostile action scenarios in their drills and exercises, which currently primarily focus on nuclear-related scenarios. New requirements for back-up measures for alerting and notification systems are also included in the proposed rule. The NRC has held several public meetings while developing the proposed rule and will be holding additional public meetings at six locations over the next several weeks. After reviewing all public comments, the NRC staff plans to submit a proposed final rule to the Commission in February 2010. In coordination with the NRC, FEMA is also seeking public comment on a proposed supplement to a joint FEMA/NRC document that addresses criteria for preparing and evaluating emergency response plans for nuclear power plants, and on a draft revision of the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Manual. Source: [http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-084.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-084.html)

9. **May 17, Asbury Park Press** – (New Jersey) **Extent of tritium leaks still unknown.** A month after radioactive tritium was found in a concrete vault and then ground water at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in Lacey, experts still are trying to define the scope of the contamination. Plant owner Exelon Corp. also is still investigating the cause of the contamination and whether there are other leaks, according to plant and federal officials. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) decided last month that Oyster Creek was “good for 20 years, and it didn’t last three weeks before something failed,” said a legal director at the Eastern Environmental Law Center in Newark and lawyer for six national, state and local groups that fought the plant’s relicensing. “So in our view, it confirms that there’s something wrong with these relicensing review processes,” he said. But plant officials did not see any corrosion problems when they checked sections of carbon steel piping roughly a year ago, an NRC
spokesman said. Five monitoring wells at the plant were contaminated with up to 265 times government limits for tritium in water, according to May 6 data provided by the NRC spokesman.
Source: http://www.app.com/article/20090517/NEWS/90517072/1070/NEWS02

Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *May 18, Wisconsin Journal Sentinel* – (National) **Higher ethanol blend could ruin small engines, makers say.** An effort to raise the 10 percent limit on ethanol in gasoline has misfired with Wisconsin engine makers Briggs & Stratton Corp., Mercury Marine, and the maker of Evinrude outboard engines. Testing has not yet shown whether higher levels of the fuel additive are acceptable and safe, the National Marine Manufacturers Association, a Chicago-based trade group, said May 18 in a Washington, D.C., news conference. Increasing the ethanol blend to 15 percent, currently being considered by the Environmental Protection Agency, could damage or ruin millions of small engines and possibly worsen air pollution, according to the engine manufacturers. Engine performance and overheating are among the problems, since most boats, lawn mowers and other outdoor power products have not been designed to run on 15 percent ethanol. The EPA is considering raising the maximum allowable amount of ethanol in most motor fuel from the current 10 percent blend to a 15 percent blend.
Source: http://www.jsonline.com/business/45370577.html

Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *May 19, Online Defense and Acquisition Journal* – (National) **FCS not killed: Casey.** Speaking before the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) on May 19, the Army Chief General said the Future Combat Systems program had not yet been terminated, contradicting recent press reports. “It was the manned ground vehicle portion that was terminated. Everything else continues to go forward,” albeit after the program has once again been restructured, he said. Asked by the SASC chair Senator whether he agreed with the Defense Secretary’s decision to cancel the FCS vehicles, he said: “I supported it; I did not agree with it.” The fundamental point of disagreement, he said, was whether the vehicle design included sufficient protection against IEDs. Battlefield experience in Iraq showed that flat bottomed vehicles with low ground clearance, such as the Humvee, were ill-protected against IEDs because the flat bottom created a gas trap that concentrated, rather than dissipated, the blast. The V-shaped hull on the MRAP class of vehicles is designed to deflect the blast outwards and away from the crew compartment.
“The original design of the vehicle, and we need to be upfront with this, when we started designing the FCS program, it was designed to fight conventional wars, we thought conventional war would be fought in the 21st century. That has clearly changed,” he said. “The original design was a flat bottomed vehicle that was 18 inches off the ground. That was clearly not survivable in this environment. And so we built a V-shaped hull kit and we added onto the vehicle the capability to raise it and lower it,” so that it would fit
inside a cargo aircraft. Boeing announced on May 19 that FCS passed its Systems of Systems Preliminary Design Review. The release is full of the usual acquisition mumble but does include the interesting information that review “validated that the designs for all FCS systems and subsystems, including the network, sensors, weapons and manned and unmanned vehicles, meet current requirements and will function as an integrated system of systems.”

Source: http://www.dodbuzz.com/2009/05/19/fcs-not-terminated-casey/

Banking and Finance Sector

12. May 20, Wichita Eagle – (Kansas) Texts about deactivated debit cards are a scam, officials warn. A text message scam affecting members of a credit union has been reported in the Wichita area on May 19. So many people around Wichita have been getting similar text messages over the past few days that police stepped forward to warn people against the scam. A detective of the financial crimes section said the texts are simply a new form of “phishing,” which is when crooks try to persuade unwitting targets to provide account information, PIN numbers and other data they need to steal money electronically. People who receive the scam text messages should report them on the FBI’s Web site, www.fbi.gov.


13. May 20, Montrose Daily Press – (Colorado) Phone scam worries local banks. A phone scam that hit Montrose and Delta in full force earlier this week has reportedly netted a few local victims, and generated at least 150 calls from worried bank customers. The scam involved automated messages sent to randomly generated phone numbers in Montrose and Delta counties. With slight variations, the pre-recorded message told recipients their Visa credit or debit card was in immediate danger of cancellation, and requested they verify their accounts by providing the card number and personal identification number. The scam quickly morphed from vaguely invoking the “Visa or MasterCard fraud department” to specifying financial institutions, area bankers said. However, it did not initially go on to specify “Montrose Bank,” as was reported to the Delta County Sheriff’s Office. A representative of Montrose Bank said the robo-calls began stating they were from “your bank in Montrose” or “your Montrose bank,” a general description that was misheard as the specific financial institution called Montrose Bank.

Source: http://www.montrosepress.com/articles/2009/05/20/news/doc4a13870f4ff4a611009389.txt

14. May 20, Business Spectator – (International) Commonwealth Bank warns on phishing scams. Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd has warned its customers to be aware of various email phishing scams circulating globally that ask for personal and banking account details. The bank said three emails claiming to be from the Commonwealth Bank were discovered beginning on May 6, and a further three were found the week of May 18. The Group Executive, Retail Banking Service, said the bank does not contact
customers via email seeking personal information and encourages them to be more vigilant with their personal and banking account details. The bank said the scams include requests for participation in surveys, update account details, activate cards, win prizes and money, qualify for fee refunds or unlock frozen accounts. The bank said customers should contact them if they remain unsure.


15. May 19, CNN – (National) Senate OKs credit card curbs. The Senate on May 19 voted 90-5 to approve a bill that will make it tougher for credit card issuers to raise fees and interest rates starting early next year. The bill now goes to the House, which is expected to take it up on May 20 and pass it before the weekend. The bill would get to the U.S. President’s desk before Memorial Day, as he called for. “To have the industry reaching and be as abusive to consumers, it needed to stop and it needed to change,” said a bill sponsor. The legislation is moderately tougher on card issuers than are new Federal Reserve rules that take effect in July 2010. The Senate’s bill would take effect in nine months and make it harder for people under age 21 to get credit cards. It would also ban rate hikes unless a consumer is more than 60 days late, and then restore the previous rate after six months if minimum payments are made. The banking industry decried the bill, saying it would exacerbate the credit crisis and force banks to drop some risky credit card holders.


16. May 19, Reuters – (National) FDIC aims for TARP-free sale of bank toxic assets. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp is looking to launch its June pilot sale of banks’ distressed loans without putting taxpayer money on the line, according to a source familiar with government plans. The FDIC will likely still provide financing to investors through debt guarantees, but is aiming to conduct the sale without a Treasury co-investment, the source said, speaking anonymously because the government discussions are private. Potential investors have expressed concern that loan purchases done in partnership with government money from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) could expose them to executive pay restrictions and other TARP conditions. The source said investors, banks, the public, and government watchdogs will get a chance to get comfortable with the program if the initial sale is done without using money from the $700-billion TARP. That comfort level would then build a foundation for when the broader program is launched, increasing its chances of success, the source said.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssFinancialServicesAndRealEstateNews/idUSN1944438020090519

Transportation Sector

17. May 20, Associated Press – (California) 3 bodies found after Navy helo crash. The bodies of three of the five crew members who were aboard a Navy helicopter that crashed into the ocean southwest of San Diego were found Wednesday, military officials
said. Rescue teams continued looking for the other two crew members, said a Navy spokesperson. The SH60 Seahawk helicopter, from Carrier Air Wing 11, had taken off from the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz as part of a training exercise before it went into the sea on May 19. There was no information May 20 on a possible cause, and the names of the crew members were not released. The crews of Coast Guard and Navy helicopters and of boats from several agencies had joined the search for the missing. The site is off the northwest Mexican coast, near the Coronado Islands. The training exercises had involved the Nimitz and a half-dozen other ships in its strike group.


18. **May 20, Ledger** – (Florida) **Two injured when car strikes train near Frostproof.** Two people are in critical condition at Lakeland Regional Medical Center after their car crashed into a freight train early May 20 at U.S. 98 and Western Avenue in Frostproof. Polk sheriff’s investigators are still at the scene of the crash, but according to preliminary information, the car was traveling west on U.S. 98 and the train was traveling north at the time of the crash. The crash occurred about 1:47 a.m. on May 20, the Sheriff’s Office said. The impact caused the last three freight cars of the 26-car train to derail and the vehicle to flip. The car’s male passenger was ejected, the Sheriff’s Office said. The car hit the 24th car derailing it and the two cars behind it, a spokesman from CSX said. One of the cars was a tanker and the other two were “hopper” cars, which resemble covered boxcars used to haul granular material such as fertilizer or sand, the CSX spokesman said. All three train cars carry nonhazardous material, and all were empty at the time of the crash.


19. **May 19, National Geographic News** – (Florida) **6-foot lizards invading military runway in Florida.** Nile monitor lizards — possibly former family pets or escapees from nearby breeding facilities — occasionally lumber onto the tarmac of Homestead Air Reserve Base near Miami. “When you have an airplane coming in to land or take off, and you have a 6-foot [1.8-meter] reptile lying on the runway, it causes a substantial human health and safety problem,” said a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Services. Agency employees patrol the runways on a regular basis to shoo away birds, capture lizards, and deal with any other pests that may show up. But that is a tall order given the base’s close proximity to both the Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, both homes to diverse arrays of wildlife that regularly spill into the base’s vast woodlands and wetlands.


For another story, see item [6](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. May 20, Associated Press – (Arkansas) Ark. gov. asks USDA for aid from rain, flooding. On May 20, the governor of Arkansas released a letter he sent to the U.S. Agriculture Secretary asking him to declare a disaster in 24 counties that had heavy rains and flooding this month. The declaration would allow federal officials to make emergency loans available to farmers in Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Conway, Cross, Drew, Faulkner, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Independence, Jackson, Lafayette, Lee, Little River, Monroe, Perry, Phillips, Poinsett, Prairie, Pulaski, St. Francis, White and Woodruff counties. Rice and cotton growers missed prime planting time and tomato growers have also been affected by the rain.
Source: http://www.cattlenetwork.com/top40_Content.asp?ContentID=316347

21. May 19, Associated Press – (Connecticut) Connecticut seizes 21 malnourished horses. The State of Connecticut has seized 21 horses, including 13 miniature horses, from an owner in Kent after responding to a complaint about the animals’ welfare. Animal control officers from the Department of Agriculture say the owner’s horses were thin and in poor condition and had been kept in excessive mud without access to dry ground or shelter. The department says the horses have not received veterinary care, some appeared to have skin infections, and several are lame. The horses have been taken to the department’s rescue facility at the Gates Correctional Institution in Niantic. They will get care from prison inmates who participate in a special work program. The department is working with prosecutors to determine whether criminal charges should be filed.
Source: http://www.wcbs880.com/pages/4428129.php?contentType=4&contentId=4026319

22. May 19, WUPW 36 Toledo and WANE 15 Fort Wayne – (Ohio) Crews extinguish Hicksville silo fire. Firefighters from six different departments helped assist in extinguishing a grain silo fire the morning of May 19, at the Hicksville Grain Company in Hicksville, Ohio. Around 8:15 a.m., fire crews were called to the site after an inspector found hot spots in the grain during his regular inspection. Emergency crews closed a city block for a period of time before the fire was extinguished. There were no injuries. Fire crews from Hicksville, Spencerville, Edgerton, Defiance, Cedar Canyon, and Sherwood were called to the fire as a precaution.
Source: http://www.foxtoledo.com/dpp/mobile/wupw_Crews_extinguish_Hicksville_silo_fire_05192009

23. May 18, News & Observer – (North Carolina; South Carolina; Virginia) Raleigh
**company recalls cantaloupes.** L&M, a Raleigh-based company, has recalled cantaloupes because they may be contaminated with salmonella. The cantaloupes were sold at Wal-Mart Supercenter stores between May 10 and May 15 in North and South Carolina, plus one Wal-Mart Supercenter in Virginia in South Hill. Consumers who purchased the fruit at those stores during that time frame should destroy it and not eat it. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the cantaloupes were provided to L&M by a small farm that has not yet been named publicly. The company has ceased shipments from that farm.


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**Water Sector**

24. *May 19, Gannett News Service* – (New York) **AG: No deal for pair in sludge case.** The New York Attorney General’s office will not offer a plea deal to two former Binghamton water department employees accused of illegally dumping sludge into the Susquehanna River. The men were in Broome County Court on Monday. The assistant attorney general told the court his office has a videotape of one of the men dumping the sludge. Binghamton water customers get their drinking water from the Susquehanna, after the water is treated. Both men have pleaded innocent to all charges. One man, the water plant’s superintendent from 2004 to 2008, faces seven felony counts of knowingly dumping sludge — sediment and chemicals left over from the water purification process — into the river. Additional charges against him include three misdemeanor counts of violating a state Department of Environmental Conservation permit. Prosecutors said he failed to monitor and report discharges, and failed to comply with DEC requirements. The other man was charged with 14 counts of dumping sludge into the river. The plant’s former superintendent is accused as a knowing accomplice in seven of those discharges, which occurred between March 24, 2006, and November 3, 2007, court documents indicate. Prosecutors have refused to say how much sludge was dumped and what chemicals were in the sludge. No one was harmed, prosecutors said. Under state laws, the sludge should have been taken to the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant in Vestal. The city’s water plant was allowed to discharge sludge under limited circumstances, the Attorney General’s office said. The incidents the two men are accused of did not qualify, prosecutors have said. The DEC began an investigation after they were tipped off by an informant about the sludge being discharged, prosecutors said.

Source: [http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20090519/NEWS01/905190361/1116/AG++No+deal+for+pair+in+sludge+case](http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20090519/NEWS01/905190361/1116/AG++No+deal+for+pair+in+sludge+case)

25. *May 19, Ohio Star Beacon* – (Ohio) **County emergency crews act out mock disaster at Geneva Wastewater Treatment Plant.** Smoke billowed from a tanker truck at the Geneva Wastewater Treatment Plant on May 19 as local police, fire and emergency medical personnel tackled a mock disaster from every angle. The scenario included a mock chemical spill of 4,000 gallons of aluminum sulfate at the North Avenue plant, as a tanker truck smoked with an imaginary fire. Police blocked both ends of North
Avenue, and emergency medical services teams decontaminated and transported five victims, played by Geneva High School students, to UH-Geneva Medical Center for treatment. At the same time, the American Red Cross set up an emergency shelter at the gymnasium in the old municipal building on Route 20. Ham radio operators, on two separate lines, communicated with administrators on the scene and in Ashtabula. Ashtabula County’s Local Emergency Planning Committee conducted the full-scale exercise. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency branch chief of field operations said he is confident in Ashtabula County’s “superb” emergency teams.

Source: http://www.starbeacon.com/local/local_story_139192642.html

26. *May 19, Cullman Times* – (Alabama) **More rainfall equals more problems for treatment plant.** April marked the fifth consecutive month of state regulation non-compliance for the Hanceville Wastewater Treatment Plant. As with the four preceding months, April was a month of violations of concentrations of ammonia for the plant because of intense rainfall. ClearWater Solutions, the private company that operates the treatment plant, reported to the Hanceville Water and Sewer Board last week that 5.7 inches of rain fell last month. The rain caused a total flow of 29.279 million gallons of water for an average flow of approximately 1 million gallons a day. The facility’s design capacity is 570,000 gallons a day. The plant flow was over capacity 25 days in April for a total of 86 days for the first 120 days of the year. During previous meetings the general utilities manager said the plant’s problems are due mainly to water infiltration into the city’s sewer system. For months, water department crews have worked throughout the city to find and repair leaks in sewer lines as well as repair damaged manholes. Several large problems have been repaired, however, he said previously that thousands of little leaks in the system are causing the real problem.

Source: http://www.cullmantimes.com/local/local_story_139165854.html

27. *May 18, Casper Star-Tribune* – (Wyoming) **Landers conserving water until filter system is fixed.** Lander, Wyoming residents are being asked to conserve water after a filter problem created a full-service shutdown at the city’s water plant on May 16. The system is only working at 20 percent capacity and is not expected to be up and running at full speed until May 18. “We can manage,” the Lander emergency management coordinator said, “but if we have a major water break or major fire, that would be a problem.” Even then, he said, the city would use its back-up plan of “pulling water out of hydrants and drafting water from creeks and rivers.” He said city officials remain vigilant and are doing everything possible to keep the public updated, through bulletins issued on the county’s Emergency Alert System broadcast on radio and television stations. The part that is broken is in what he referred to as the polymer pump.

Source: http://www.trib.com/articles/2009/05/18/news/wyoming/b3d1ba2f926a89cd872575ba00813be8.txt

For more stories, see items 5 and 42
Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. May 20, Los Angeles Times – (National) **Swine flu vaccine taking longer than expected, WHO says.** At a weeklong meeting in Geneva to discuss the outbreak of the so-called swine flu, the global health agency said the virus was not growing very quickly in the laboratory. That means vaccine makers won’t be able to start production until mid-July at the earliest. WHO officials originally said they would be able to deliver the seed stock to manufacturers by the end of the month. Once the companies have it in hand, it takes about four to six months to produce the vaccine. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta intends to have its own H1N1 seed stock ready to distribute to vaccine makers by the end of May, and those efforts are “still on track,” a spokesman said Tuesday. Small lots of H1N1 vaccine could be available for human clinical trials as early as late July or August, he said.

29. May 19, Time and Reuters – (National) **A new pandemic fear: A shortage of surgical masks.** The surgical face mask has become perhaps the most recognizable symbol of the H1N1 pandemic threat, but if the currently circulating flu virus does in fact reach full-fledged pandemic proportions, U.S. health officials say there will not be enough face masks to go. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) says the nation would need more than 30 billion masks — 27 billion of the simple surgical kind, which can be worn safely for only about two hours before needing replacement, and 5 billion of the sturdier respirator variety, which also requires regular replacement — to protect all Americans adequately in the event of a serious epidemic. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile currently contains only 119 million masks — 39 million surgical and 80 million respirators. That is less than 1 percent of the goal health officials set in 2007 following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, which highlighted the country’s shortages of vital medical gear. The U.S. mask gap stands in stark contrast to what other nations have on hand: the U.S. has one mask for every three Americans (masks are not supposed to be shared), while Australia has 2.5 masks per resident and Great Britain boasts six.
Source: [http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1899526,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1899526,00.html)

30. May 19, Associated Press – (New York) **NYC hospital buildings evacuated after tunnel fire.** A fire Monday at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center in New York City sent nearly 20 people to the emergency room and forced the evacuation of hundreds of patients and staff. Fire officials say the blaze started in an electrical panel in an underground tunnel and was under control about two hours later. Firefighters used fans to get smoke out of the building. About 300 people in an outpatient building and a support services building were evacuated.
Source: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g2wbDph2xmsWa2SLnCz3XlkgEhBAD988S5NO0](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g2wbDph2xmsWa2SLnCz3XlkgEhBAD988S5NO0)

For another story, see item 31
Government Facilities Sector

31. *May 20, Associated Press* – (National) **Flu outbreak reveals DoD plans, gaps.** The rapid spread of swine flu from Mexico surprised Pentagon officials who had been focused on a possible Asian-borne pandemic in a response plan that would give the military a last-resort role in helping to impose quarantines and border restrictions. Drafted and overhauled several times in recent years, the military’s closely guarded plan for an influenza pandemic assumed that officials would have more time before the flu hit U.S. shores. The Associated Press obtained briefing documents about the military’s pandemic contingency plan. The H1N1 flu outbreak set U.S. military commanders scrambling to monitor and protect troops based near the 2,000-mile Southern border and on ships nearby. The virus spread quickly across the border into southern California, infecting at least 27 sailors on a ship docked at San Diego, California, four Marines at California’s Camp Pendleton and at least one Marine at Twentynine Palms, also in southern California. Several dozen Marines have been quarantined, and nearly two dozen other sailors had flu symptoms but so far have not been confirmed as having the H1N1 virus. Steps would be taken to immunize Soldiers, their families, retirees and civilian workers who support the military’s mission. And if needed, access in and out of military installations would be restricted.


32. *May 19, Virginian-Pilot* – (International) **Army captain admits to equipment theft.** An Army captain from Suffolk pleaded guilty Monday to a federal charge of stealing Department of Defense equipment, including a bus, eight trucks and five trailers, and selling them to an Iraqi businessman. The 36-year old officer admitted that he committed the conspiracy while stationed in Iraq. He and an accomplice made between $400,000 and $1 million, according to court records filed in the case. The captain pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia to one count of conspiracy to steal government property. He faces up to five years in prison and a $250,000 fine when he is sentenced in July. The accomplice, a 32-year old noncommissioned officer, who hails from Sylvester, Georgia, pleaded guilty to the same charge last week.


For more stories, see items 1, 17, and 19

Emergency Services Sector

33. *May 20, Chicago Sun Times* – (Illinois) **$20 mil. grant to upgrade radios, improve disaster response.** Two years ago, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security released a report suggesting that first responders in Chicago and Cook County were ill-prepared
to communicate with one another in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack. Chicago ranked among the worst for disaster communication of 75 metropolitan areas rated in a mock disaster exercise. Homeland Security cited a “fragmented regional communications infrastructure” with “insufficient channels for joint operations,” forcing many first responders to use their own cell phones. Now, thanks to a $20 million Homeland Security Grant funneled through Chicago, 512 hand-held radios, equipment and software are being purchased from Motorola to allow first responders in the suburbs to talk to each other and to their city and state counterparts. The coordinator of the Cook County Emergency Management Agency said the 944 square miles of Cook County cover 128 municipalities. Each will get four radios for distribution to “incident commanders” who quarterback disaster scenes.


34. May 19, STATter911.com – (Maryland) Money woes halt repairs to Md. fire trucks. On May 15, wiring inside the cab of Truck 809 (Bladensburg VFD) caught fire. A fire extinguisher saved the truck, but it is expected it will take weeks for repairs to be made. In the meantime, Prince George’s County has no extra ladder trucks to put at the Bladensburg firehouse. The only spare truck, about 20-years-old, is already being used at West Lanham Hills (PGFD Station 828). On Monday, about one-third of the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department’s ladder trucks were broken. Department officials have indicated keeping front line suppression units in service is a priority during these tight budget times, but County sources confirm in many cases fire engines and ambulances are not being repaired if the parts are not already in stock. Also, officials are frequently refusing to authorize repairs performed by private facilities used by the fire department. This includes even smaller repairs costing less than $1,000. The money problems extend beyond repairing fire trucks. New gear for firefighters is not available and there are reports that station supplies are not easy to come by.


35. May 20, SpamFighter News – (International) Kaspersky detects deeply penetrating computer virus Sinowal. According to security company Kaspersky, its research lab spotted a fresh version of Sinowal — a vicious code that keeps itself hidden on an infected system by contaminating its MBR (Master Boot Record) that is part of a system’s hard-drive — at the end of March 2009. The company stated the new Sinowal botnet also called Torpig represents a sophisticated method that cyber criminals have used for the first time. According to it, Sinowal plants itself on the lowest level of the OS (Operating System) i.e. the MBR of the computer’s hard-drive and effectively bypasses antivirus software. Before Kaspersky Lab detected the latest Sinowal variant, the company’s analysts had presented detailed reports about the rootkit’s other variants in 2008. However, the current variant has simply surprised the security researchers, according to the company. The company also states, during April 2009, the virus vigorously proliferated via several techniques like websites exploiting a security flaw in
Adobe Acrobat Reader of PDF software or the Neosploit rootkit. According to the researchers, the detection of the rootkit along with its treatment, as the malware continues to proliferate, represents an extremely difficult job for antivirus experts who have been facing it for several years.


36. May 20, ZDNet – (International) **OSS attacks will grow with adoption.** Speaking at a briefing on May 20, the director of security research for DVLabs at TippingPoint said computer criminals tend to work for profit gain and will attack widely-deployed software to gain access to more terminals easily. But he noted that OSS is a harder target to attack, because of the speed at which bugs get patched. The visibility of code and mass participative nature of open source development helps bugs get discovered faster. And since zero-day attacks are the most commonly used method, closing holes faster thwarts the spread of such malware, said the director. Zero-day malware attacks vulnerabilities that are yet to be patched by the manufacturer. A technical consultant with systems engineering at Symantec Singapore told ZDNet Asia it all comes down to how widely adopted a particular piece of software is.

Source: http://www.zdnetasia.com/news/security/0,39044215,62054223,00.htm

37. May 19, ZDNet – (International) **iServices Trojan removal tool 1.1.** iWorkServices Trojan Removal Tool is a free utility created to remove the iWorkServices Trojan horse from infected Macintosh computers running Mac OS X. This tool is in response to a new spyware trojan horse (OSX.Trojan.iServices.A) in the wild that comes bundled with pirated copies of Apple’s (AAPL) iWork 09. When infected copies of the iWork 09 installer are run, they install a hidden trojan program called iWorkServices with full access rights to the target computer. Once the trojan is installed, it will attempt to connect to a remote server and provide the server with the infected computer’s network location. It then listens for further instructions from the remote server, which may include instructions to download additional components. iWorkServices Trojan removal tool will remove this malware.

Source: http://www.zdnet.de/apple_absichern_iservices_trojan_removal_tool_download-39002345-183441-1.htm

**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 20, Brunswick Sun – (Ohio) **New fiber optic loop to help Brunswick businesses**
Helping businesses in Cleveland’s industrial parks continue to thrive is the idea behind new plans that call for re-routing the proposed Medina County fiber optic loop from Center Road through the north business park. Medina County’s executive director of economic development told members of city council’s economic development committee that the county is now in the process of revising initial plans for the 150-mile ring to better accommodate the companies located on the city’s north end and in the city’s industrial parks. While initial maps for the $8 million project show the ring intersecting the city along Center Road, the new plans now call for the ring to run along Center Road and bisect the city’s north industrial park. From there, the loop will head to Grafton and North Carpenter Roads, where it will then cut over to Pearl Road in an effort to serve the Midpoint Campus Center, located in the Highland Square building near the intersection of Pearl and Boston Roads.


39. **May 19, CNET News – (National) Cisco reveals new initiative for mobile markets.**

Mobile workers today still face challenges in bouncing from wired to wireless to cellular workspaces. Cisco believes it may have a solution. On May 19, Cisco announced a new initiative called Collaboration in Motion, designed to help workers on the go by integrating different services for the mobile market. Collaboration in Motion will bring together a variety of products from Cisco’s network portfolio. The mix includes Cisco’s WebEx virtual meeting tool, its Unified Communications platform, the Cisco Unified Wireless Network, and Cisco Advanced Services for technical support. The company hopes the new project will bridge the gap between the wired, wireless, and cellular worlds, allowing mobile employees to work more seamlessly. With Collaboration in Motion, Cisco says its strategy is to focus on new tools and technologies in several key areas. As part of its Workspace Experience, the company will develop network applications and software for the growing number of portable mobile devices. For its Wireless Network platform, the company is developing more wireless network controllers and other products that use 802.11n technology. Though 802.11n has yet to be approved as a standard, many companies have been ramping up products to support it for the future.


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**Commercial Facilities Sector**

40. **May 18, Burlington Union – (Massachusetts) Fire at Burlington Mall injures firefighter.** A Burlington, Massachusetts firefighter was injured while fighting a fire at the Burlington Mall at approximately 7:30 p.m. on May 16. The firefighter was transported to Lahey Clinic with non-life threatening injuries. The fire was located in an emergency egress corridor at the Burlington Mall. According to the Burlington fire chief, the area is not accessible to the public. Upon arrival, crews found a trash fire in the service corridor being extinguished by an activated sprinkler. Burlington Police and
mall security evacuated employees and customers from the mall and diverted traffic in
mall parking lots to provide access for emergency vehicles. The Burlington fire chief
said trash was improperly stored in the hallway by store personnel. The source of
ignition is still under investigation and considered suspicious at this time. According
to the fire chief, structural damage is estimated at $50,000. Damage to contents is
estimated at $300,000. Adding to the difficulty in determining how the fire started is the
lack of security cameras in the corridor, he said. “It’s a rare hallway that is used to
service the stores to bring in products into the store,” he said. “It’s also an emergency
egress, so I have some grave concerns about storing trash in that area.”
Source: http://www.wickedlocal.com/burlington/news/police_and_fire/x1655276783/Fire-at-
Burlington-Mall-injures-firefighter

National Monuments & Icons Sector

41. May 19, KULR 8 Billings – (National) Vote goes to House. On May 19, the U.S. Senate
voted to allow loaded weapons into national parks. The House could follow suit as soon
as May 20. The Yellowstone National Park Chief of Public Affairs said, “We certainly
don’t see a need for you to be armed to come into Yellowstone. If you feel that you’d
like more information so that you can be comfortable about it we’d be happy to do that.”
The park official said park rangers provide more than adequate protection for the public.
He says loaded weapons in the park could end up raising the danger level for park
visitors.

Dams Sector

42. May 19, Los Angeles Times – (California) Klondike Lake boat ban aims to keep
mussel at bay. In an effort to keep prolific, destructive bivalve from surging into the
Los Angeles aqueduct system, the city’s Department of Water and Power (DWP)
banned the use of personal watercraft and recreational boats on the 160-acre lake, and
installed a fence around it. Experts suspect that the quagga, which has wreaked havoc
from the Great Lakes to Lake Mead, is spreading via water systems and on recreational
boats moved by trailer from one marina to another. Forming large masses that clog
water pumps, it has already infested the 242-mile California Aqueduct and reservoirs in
San Diego and Riverside counties. Currently, there are no indications that the
thumbnail-sized mussel has infiltrated the Owens Valley aqueduct system, which
supplies Los Angeles with 25 percent of its water. DWP officials hope to keep it at bay.

43. May 19, News Tribune – (Washington) No immediate failure danger found at Hanson
dam. Two depressions that formed in the dirt abutment next to Howard Hanson Dam
during and after January 2009’s flood event are not dangerous, the Army Corps of Engineers has determined. The dam, however, still needs to be watched because of unexplained seepage within the right abutment, according to a Corps spokeswoman. At this point, the dam, 30 miles east of Auburn, still has lowered capacity to hold back any flood waters from the Green River and that could lead to high water in the Auburn, Kent and Tukwila areas. The larger depression occurred when an old tunnel in the right abutment collapsed and dirt fell in. The smaller depression occurred when water washed away volcanic rock that had crumbled over time. The engineers have placed measuring instruments in the right abutment and have started slowly filling the dam’s reservoir to determine what is happening now as compared to past years at different water levels. The engineers are designing short-term repairs they hope to have in place before November 1, 2009 to increase the Corps’ confidence in using the dam to store flood waters. Potential projects include a low permeability barrier within the abutment. A long-term solution, if needed, still is perhaps a few flood seasons away, the spokeswoman said. The Corps has been working closely with King County and the downstream cities on the Green River for flood season, should higher-than-normal flows be necessary from the dam.


44. **May 19, St. Louis Business Journal** – (Missouri) **Worker dies at Taum Sauk rebuild.**

A 48-year-old female laborer with Ozark Constructors died on the morning of May 19 while working on a concrete replacement at the Taum Sauk reservoir. The unidentified worker was flown to Barnes-Jewish Hospital, where she died from her injuries. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will investigate the cause of the accident. “The safety and well-being of our employees is our first priority and the project had an exemplary safety record prior to this tragic loss,” the company said. “Unfortunately, it takes only one accident to negate more than 2 million hours of safe construction over the past 21 months.” The AmerenUE reservoir, located in Johnson’s Shut-Ins State Park in Reynolds County, is being rebuilt after the utility’s hydroelectric plant breached in 2005, spilling 1.3 billion gallons of water through the state park.


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