



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 6 January 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- According to the Reading Eagle, a fire at chemical distributor Brenntag North America Inc. in Ontelaunee Township, Pennsylvania brought out dozens of firefighters Monday evening. (See item [5](#))
- The Mobile Press Register and Birmingham News report that political offices throughout Alabama shut down Monday morning after receiving nine envelopes containing white powder and threatening letters, claiming the powder was anthrax. Tests revealed the substance was not harmful. (See item [18](#))

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Energy Sector

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

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. **January 4, KPVI 6 Pocatello** – (Idaho) **Power restored to 27,000 people affected by outage.** A spokeswoman with Rocky Mountain Power says an equipment failure caused a power outage around 12:30 p.m. Monday afternoon. The outage affected nearly 27,000 Rocky Mountain Power customers from Rigby to Ashton. Rocky

Mountain Power crews fixed the problem in just under two hours.

Source: <http://www.kpvi.com/Global/story.asp?S=11766617>

2. *January 4, Reuters* – (National) **El Paso Tennessee Gas issues alert due to cold, outage.** El Paso Corp's Tennessee Gas Pipeline unit said Monday due to a force majeure outage at its station 47 and cold weather in its market territory in the eastern United States, it issued an operational flow order to protect the integrity of its natural gas pipeline system. "Due to the force majeure at station 47, colder temperatures and in order to maintain linepack, Tennessee is issuing a Critical Day 2 OFO for several zones on its system effective Tuesday, Jan. 5," the company said in a Web site posting. In related postings, the company said the impact from the outage at station 47 was estimated to be a reduction of about 450,000 dekatherms per day from maximum throughput through the station. The force majeure event, the result of "filter changes becoming necessary," is expected to last one day, a posting said. The nearly 14,000-mile Tennessee Gas Pipeline system taps supply regions in the Gulf of Mexico, Texas, Appalachia, and Canada and serves markets across the Midwest and mid-Atlantic including major metropolitan cities of Chicago, New York, and Boston.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0421744120100104?type=marketsNews>
3. *January 4, KDVR 31 Denver* – (Colorado) **Crash severs gas line; 5 evacuated, firefighter treated.** A driver crashed a car into an apartment building in Denver early on January 4, severing a gas line and forcing 5 residents to leave their homes. The crash happened at about 1:00 am and it left a gaping hole in the brick building at 2nd Ave. and Quebec St. It also broke a 2-inch high pressure natural gas line. Reports at the scene said one Denver firefighter received treatment for problems related to inhaling fumes during the emergency response. A gas odor spread over several blocks following the crash. Crews first removed the car from the building, and then began repairs to the broken gas line. It was not known how long the repairs would take. The handful of residents who were evacuated were allowed to return later Monday morning. Police had not released details yet about what caused the driver to lose control and crash into the building.
Source: <http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-gas-line-text-010410,0,6193537.story>
4. *January 3, Shreveport Times* – (Louisiana) **OSHA: Mereaux refinery still has safety issues.** The Murphy Oil Co. refinery in Mereaux has 18 violations that could cause death or serious injury, and many of its problems remain from two years ago, says an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) audit. The inspection this summer found Murphy Oil had failed to correct 43 percent of the violations noted in 2007, according to the recently released audit. Fines for the serious violations totaled more than \$85,000. Most were fire and explosion hazards, an OSHA news release says. A company spokesman declined to comment, saying the company had just received the citations and was considering responses. Citations include failure to regularly inspect piping and problems with relief valves designed to prevent fires or explosions. In addition, OSHA inspectors found the Murphy Oil refinery often did not deal with deficiencies pointed out during internal safety audits. The inspection began July 7 as part of a national program to reduce the number of catastrophic accidents at oil

refineries. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is investigating a Murphy Oil discharge of storm water laden with oil into a neighborhood canal during heavy rains earlier last month.

Source: <http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20100103/NEWS05/1030335/1064>

For another story, see item [23](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *January 5, Reading Eagle* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire strikes chemical distributor in Ontelaunee Township.** A fire at an Ontelaunee Township chemical distributor brought out dozens of firefighters the evening of January 4, but the blaze was contained to a truck wash and maintenance building, fire officials said. The 8 p.m. fire was reported at Brenntag North America Inc., 5083 Pottsville Pike, also known as Route 61. One firefighter suffered a minor hand injury and was treated by medical personnel at the scene. The initial damage estimate was \$10,000, said the Leesport Fire Marshal. He said the cause of the fire was unknown but that it was possibly electrical. According to the fire marshal, Brenntag workers noticed the fire around an electrical panel in the maintenance building. They tried to put it out and called 911. The chemical distribution company, with hazardous chemicals on the site, is considered a high-risk facility. The first units on the scene reported heavy smoke, which could be seen for miles. The fire was in a wall when firefighters arrived, and they removed part of the wall and roof to extinguish the blaze, he said. Operations at the facility were suspended while fire crews were on the scene. He said no hazardous materials were involved in the fire, which was reported under control at 9:40 p.m. Leesport was assisted by Temple, Goodwill, Blandon, Fleetwood, Central Berks and Walnuttown fire companies, along with Schuylkill Valley and Muhlenberg EMS.
Source: <http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=183500>

6. *January 4, Occupational Health and Safety* – (Texas) **OSHA sends message with \$1.4 million filing.** CES Environmental Services Inc. is in a federal agency's enforcement crosshairs again. This time, OSHA has issued penalties totaling \$1,477,500 to CES in connection with 17 allegedly willful violations and 54 allegedly serious violations — all of them related to a July 2009 explosion at the company's Griggs Road facility in Houston. OSHA posted the announcement on its site late on January 4. It says the explosion killed an employee who was cleaning a tank "when an altered piece of equipment ignited flammable vapors inside the tank. The fatality was the third death in less than a year at this employer's facilities; two hydrogen sulfide exposure-related deaths at a related facility, Port Arthur Chemical & Environmental Services LLC (PACES), occurred in December 2008 and April 2009." Those two fatalities in Port Arthur, Texas on December 18, 2008 and the April 14, 2009 cases still being contested before OSHRC brought proposed penalties of \$16,600 and \$207,800, respectively, against PACES. CES and PACES together employ 155 workers, according to OSHA.

Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2010/01/04/osha-sends-message-with-filing.aspx?admgarea=news>

For more stories, see items [24](#) and [26](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *January 5, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Summer nuclear plant testing 100 emergency sirens.** South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. is testing the 106 sirens located within 10 miles of its nuclear power plant near the state capital. The power company says all sirens surrounding the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station near Columbia are going to be tested Tuesday at around 1 p.m. The sirens will sound at full volume for one minute as part of the plant's quarterly emergency response testing. The company is reminding residents in Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, and Richland counties that the blasts are only tests. In an actual emergency, the sirens would sound for three minutes and alert residents to tune to an Emergency Alert System radio or television station for further instructions.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/breaking/story/1096226.html>

8. *January 4, Associated Press* – (International) **Slide city mayor seeks Brazil nuke plant shutdown.** The mayor of a mudslide-devastated city has urged a precautionary shutdown of Brazil's only nuclear power plants due to blocked highways while the death toll from flooding and slides rose to 75. The mayor of Angra dos Reis said on Sunday that while the nuclear power plants are not damaged or threatened, mudslides that have killed at least 44 people in his city alone have disrupted escape routes needed to cope with any emergency. "We don't want any risk," said the mayor, whose municipality has about 120,000 people. "We want to avoid a future problem." There was no immediate response from higher authorities, but officials of Brazil's state-run nuclear energy company Electronuclear said a temporary closure of the plants would not seriously hurt the country's power supply, according to Globo TV. On Saturday, before the mayor's request, the company said a shutdown was not necessary.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/04/AR2010010400898.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *January 4, Aviation Maintenance* – (International) **FAA reworks 737 fuel tank practices.** The Federal Aviation Administration is revising the maintenance program for fuel tank systems on the Boeing 737 series. The changes, which take effect on January 15, are intended to incorporate new airworthiness limitations for fuel tank systems resulting from a design review, and to satisfy requirements in Special FAR 88. The airworthiness directive covers the 737-100, -200/200C, -300, -400 and -500 series.

Source: http://www.aviationtoday.com/am/topstories/FAA-Reworks-737-Fuel-Tank-Practices_65428.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *January 5, Space-Travel.com* – (California) **Booz Allen Hamilton to transform LA spacelift range.** Booz Allen Hamilton has been awarded a \$38.4 million Launch and Test Range System (LTRS) Systems Engineering and Integration (SE&I) contract, which provides support to the Los Angeles-based Spacelift Range Group (LRRG), Launch and Range Systems Wing (LRSW), Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC). Under the contract, Booz Allen will provide required SE&I support to modernize the spacelift range enterprise by putting in place the structure, processes and tools that will significantly increase the reliability, maintainability, availability, and dependability of the operating systems. The four-year contract also provides a risk reduction and capability maturation program to develop and maintain the current and future architectures. LTRS consists of ground-based surveillance, navigation, flight operations and analysis, command and control, communications and weather assets located at the Eastern Range (Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.) and the Western Range (Vandenberg AFB, Calif.) for space missions.

Source: http://www.space-travel.com/reports/Booz_Allen_Hamilton_To_Transform_LA_Spacelift_Range_999.html

11. *January 4, Military Times* – (National) **Work keeps A-10s in air until new wings arrive.** The Air Force's oldest and most formidable close-air support plane is getting a fix to keep it flying until its new wings are ready in a couple of years. Airmen from the 309th Maintenance Wing's Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group are installing steel straps and stronger fittings to the Thunderbolt's wings. "This is an interim fix to keep the A-10s flying while the new wings are being built," the 309th AMARG center wing shop supervisor said in a statement. The new wings will beef up the Warthog's structure and give it another 20 years in the air, according to a structural engineer with the 309th AMARG. "The modifications we're giving the wing will double its service life and allow it to carry the additional load the wings are expected to carry," he said. A contract awarded in 2007 to Boeing calls for 242 new wings to be installed on original A-10 airframes by 2011. About 100 A-10s built in the 1980s are sturdier and do not need new wings.

Source: http://militarytimes.com/news/2010/01/airforce_thunderbolts_010410w/

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *January 5, Brazoria County Facts* – (Texas) **Pipe bomb suspected in LJ bank blast.** Investigators suspect a homemade pipe bomb damaged a bank’s drive-through teller window early January 4, but told a bank official the explosion was in line with horseplay. Two residents reported hearing an explosion at around 12:50 a.m., but it was not until almost two hours later that police were able to find its source. That was when a 32-year-old Brazoria woman stopped to use the night deposit slot at First National Bank in the 100 block of West Way and saw a hole in the teller window. No one entered or took money from the bank, a police lieutenant said. “We’re still looking for motivation,” the lieutenant said. The FBI has ruled out the explosion being connected to any terroristic plans, but said it was more in line with horseplay, said the senior vice president of First National Bank of Lake Jackson. Pieces of the explosive found in the window indicate it might have been a homemade pipe bomb, the lieutenant said. “It was a substantial explosion,” he said. However, no alarms were received from the bank, he said.

Source: <http://thefacts.com/story.lasso?ewcd=138b661c502bbf37>

13. *January 4, Reuters* – (International) **Credit Suisse sued over resorts, \$24 billion sought.** Credit Suisse Group AG has been sued by property owners in four luxury ski and golf resorts, saying the Swiss bank concocted a loan scheme to defraud them and ultimately take over the properties. The lawsuit filed on January 3 in federal court in Boise, Idaho, seeks \$24 billion of damages against Credit Suisse and commercial real estate firm Cushman & Wakefield Inc, and class-action status for more than 3,000 investors who bought land or homes. The alleged losses relate to Yellowstone Club, a Montana ski resort whose members have included a Microsoft Corp Chairman, as well as to Lake Las Vegas resort in southern Nevada, the Tamarack resort in central Idaho and Ginn sur Mer on Grand Bahama Island in the Bahamas. Lake Las Vegas and Tamarack have also been the subject of bankruptcy proceedings, court records show. The four resorts are among many high-end properties that have struggled with falling real estate values and the credit crisis. According to the complaint, Credit Suisse violated federal racketeering laws by concocting a “loan to own” scheme that inflated the value of resorts and burdened the resorts and purchasers of homes there with too much debt. Using appraisal methods provided by Cushman & Wakefield, this scheme allowed Credit Suisse to win “enormous fees” and ultimately foreclose on or take control of the resorts at well below market value, the complaint said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6031X920100104>

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Transportation Sector

14. *January 5, BBC* – (National) **U.S. steps up flight security lists.** The U.S. has moved dozens of names on to “watch” and “no-fly” lists as it seeks to overhaul security in the wake of an alleged jet bomb plot, officials say. The U.S. government has also introduced new security measures for all travelers flying to America. There will be extra screening for people traveling from 14 countries. Meanwhile, the President is to meet officials assigned to review security after the suspected plot and is expected to

announce reforms. These will aim to “improve our watch-listing system as well as our ability to thwart future attempts to carry out terrorist attacks”, an administration official said. A White House spokesman said that lists had been checked and updated, with names moved from the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (Tide), to a watch list or no-fly list. “Probably dozens were moved to different lists,” he said. Those on the watch list are subject to extra security checks, while those on the no-fly list are not allowed to board flights to the United States.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8440591.stm>

15. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Florida) **17-year-old locked in Fla. airport terminal.** The Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional Airport says it will be examining the facility’s security operations after a 17-year-old was locked in a terminal alone overnight. The airport director says the facility will be “taking a good look” at screening procedures because of the weekend incident. The 17-year-old missed his Delta flight Saturday night and decided to sleep in the airport terminal. The airport concourse closed, leaving him locked inside alone. A Delta agent discovered him asleep early Sunday morning and called airport security guards. The teenager was allowed to fly out Sunday after he was questioned by security officials.
Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/florida/AP/story/1409746.html>

16. *January 5, FOX News* – (New Jersey) **TSA allegedly waited 80 minutes before reporting breach at N.J. airport.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) waited more than an hour to alert law enforcement about a security breach at New Jersey’s Newark Liberty International Airport on Sunday, MyFoxNY.com reported. An unidentified man, who may have just been lost, confused or simply mistaken about which way to go, was able to bypass security and enter the airport through an exit door. MyFoxNY.com was reportedly able to see a computer dispatch log that indicated the breach had occurred at 5:20 p.m. Sunday. But it was not until 80 minutes later, at 6:40 p.m. that the Port Authority Police Department was notified about the incident, MyFoxNY.com reported. The TSA said they needed time to investigate the traveler’s claims before they could request a shutdown of the terminal, which required several calls up the chain of command and viewing surveillance tape, according to the station. Whatever the explanation, the traveler’s seemingly innocuous actions Sunday evening wreaked havoc on airline schedules and delayed passengers around the globe for 24 hours — and again demonstrated that for all the new high-tech passenger and baggage screenings that have made air travel safer, human error can quickly send the entire system into a tailspin. An unidentified security officer assigned to the area of the exit door apparently did not see the man enter but was notified by a bystander waiting for relatives to arrive. The security officer was reassigned to non-screening duties pending the completion of the investigation. Flights were grounded for about six hours while authorities looked at surveillance tapes to try to identify the man. He was later seen on tape leaving the terminal about 20 minutes after he entered it.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,581990,00.html?test=latestnews>

17. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Power restored at Washington’s Reagan airport, but delays may persist.** Flights were grounded for about an hour Monday

when the power went out at Reagan National Airport outside Washington, D.C. The power was out from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m., said a spokeswoman for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. The Transportation Security Administration was able to quickly resume screening using a backup generator at two of four checkpoints. The airport control tower has a backup power source, said a Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman. The FAA barred planes headed to Reagan National from taking off during the outage because power jetways were not working and there was no way to unload passengers at the terminal. Planes were allowed to take off from Reagan if passengers had already been screened.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2010-01-04-power-outage-reagan_N.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *January 5, Mobile Press Register & Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Offices in 5 Alabama cities evacuated after receiving envelopes with white powder.** Political offices throughout Alabama — including Foley and Mobile — shut down Monday morning after receiving nine envelopes containing white powder and threatening letters. The letters claimed the powder was anthrax, but tests revealed the substance was not harmful, said the special agent in charge of the Mobile office of the FBI. An FBI agent in Birmingham said it was, in fact, an artificial sweetener. The envelopes were found in five cities: All four targeted politicians are Republicans. The FBI Agent said he did not want to speculate about a possible motive. The FBI Agent said more letters may be coming. An FBI spokeswoman said investigators believe all the handwritten letters came from the same source. The US Postal Inspection Service is offering a \$100,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for sending the letters.

Source: http://blog.al.com/live/2010/01/offices_in_5_alabama_cities_ev.html

19. *January 5, Torrance Daily Breeze* – (California) **Suspicious powder sent to 2 UC Irvine professors.** More tests were expected to be carried out Tuesday on white powder sent to two UC Irvine professors in envelopes that contained messages bearing the words “black death.” Neither one of the targets appeared to have been harmed by the substance, whose discovery prompted the evacuation of parts of two buildings on campus. One letter was opened by a faculty member in the Social Science Plaza about 11:30 a.m. Monday, and the other was opened by a faculty member in the Engineering Tower about 2 p.m., according to a UCI campus spokesman. The FBI has launched an investigation of the incident, the Orange County Register reported. The powder contained in one of the envelopes was tested by the Orange County Health Care Agency, which determined that it was not hazardous, school officials told the Daily Pilot. Other faculty members were urged Monday to be cautious when examining

incoming mail and to contact UC Irvine police if they received anything suspicious.
Source: http://www.dailybreeze.com/latestnews/ci_14125168

20. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Dry ice bombs discovered in Evergreen mailboxes.** Dry ice bombs were found in two Jefferson County mailboxes, closing down a road in an Evergreen neighborhood. A bomb squad is on the scene in the Clove Lane neighborhood after the bombs were found Monday. No one was hurt. Jefferson County Sheriff's Department is investigating. Deputies say dry ice bombs are found six to eight times a year.
Source: <http://www.kdvr.com/news/sns-ap-co--dryicebombs,0,3607901.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *January 5, Reuters* – (Florida) **Florida citrus crop so far escapes freeze damage.** Florida's citrus crop appears to have escaped damage so far from several nights of freezing weather during its peak harvest period, but growers are bracing for expected lower temperatures overnight Tuesday to Wednesday, the state's main citrus growers group said on Tuesday. For the third consecutive day, Florida Citrus Mutual, which represents around 8,000 growers, said it had received no reports so far of freeze damage to fruit. Florida's \$9.3 billion citrus industry produces more than three-quarters of the U.S. orange crop, most of which is processed for juice.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6043CF20100105>
22. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. Capitol cafe reopens after rodent troubles.** The Pennsylvania Capitol's cafeteria has reopened after being shut down for more than two weeks over mouse droppings and other health hazards. The privately run Statehouse cafeteria in Harrisburg reopened Monday after a thorough cleaning. State officials made an unannounced inspection in mid-December and found evidence of a rodent infestation and dishwashing water that was not hot enough. Officials acknowledged that the cafeteria had not been inspected for four years, even though state law requires annual inspections. They say there will be monthly inspections for the next six months. The ground-floor cafeteria is a popular coffee and lunch spot for visitors and workers. Philadelphia-based Aramark Corp. holds the contract to operate it.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/04/us/AP-US-Pa-Capitol-Cafeteria-Rodents.html? r=1>

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Water Sector

23. *January 5, Associated Press* – (International) **China shuts dam generators following diesel spill.** China has suspended power generation at a major Yellow River dam to contain diesel fuel that leaked last week from a pipeline. Beginning December 30, an estimated 100 tons of diesel fuel spilled into the Wei River, which feeds into the

Yellow, a water source for millions of Chinese. All six generators at the Sanmenxia power station were shut down on Saturday to hold contaminated water behind the dam and keep it from flowing toward major cities downstream that rely on the river for drinking water, a spokesman for the Sanmenxia Water Conservancy Bureau said. Authorities have already told 850,000 people in riverside communities to avoid using the Yellow for drinking or watering livestock. However, in a statement issued late Monday, the Shaanxi provincial government said cleanup measures, including diversion channels, floating dams, and absorbing agents, had so far proven effective in containing the spill. As of Monday, no oil slick could be seen on the Wei and oil concentration in the river averaged just 0.79 part per million (0.79 milligrams per liter), well within acceptable limits, the statement said.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9479123>

24. *January 5, Litchfield Register Citizen* – (Connecticut) **Company must pay \$100K for illegal dumping.** A Plymouth, Connecticut, company has been ordered to pay the state \$100,000 after reaching a settlement that determined it dumped toxic chemicals into the town's sewage treatment system. The Plymouth-based Phoenix Products Company, which makes chemicals for pools, cosmetics and water treatment, had been dealing with allegations of illegal dumping and improper storage, disposal and transportation of toxic waste since September of 2008. An investigation by state, federal and town authorities determined the company had engaged in such practices for eight years. The settlement was reached with State Attorney General office as well as the U.S. Attorney's office. The company was convicted in a related prosecution by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The company has already reimbursed the town \$10,000, after the investigation found that the company's illegal dumping interfered with Plymouth's waste water treatment plant. Phoenix will pay the state in installments over the next three years. Approximately \$75,000 will be used for DEP environmental projects, while \$25,000 will go into the state's general fund.

Source:

<http://www.registercitizen.com/articles/2010/01/05/news/doc4b42c88ff1514596503566.txt>

25. *January 4, Pioneer Press* – (Minnesota) **Groundwater issue haunts 3M plan for Cottage Grove incinerator.** 3M Co. is now facing an unexpected backlash based on the PFCs — perfluorochemicals — in drinking water. It has erupted in a dispute that has nothing to do with water quality — a routine permit change for an incinerator. “This isn't about the incinerator at all, as much as the water pollution,” said the mayor of Cottage Grove, Minnesota, the home of the incinerator. The company announced in May that it wanted to burn material from non-3M sources in its 38-year-old incinerator. The incinerator had been operating quietly for decades, with hardly a peep from the public. But the company backlash is now so strong that the incinerator has suddenly warranted its own city commission — the Cottage Grove Environmental Task Force. The State Pollution Control Agency (PCA) has joined in as well, with its own public meetings. In 2004, traces of PFCs made by 3M were found in drinking water in Oakdale and Lake Elmo. Later, they were found in drinking water of about 67,000

people. They had leached from various dumpsites. The news was alarming, because megadoses of the chemicals cause cancer and birth defects in mice. More than 1,000 residents sued 3M, claiming PFCs injured them. But after a four-year, multimillion-dollar court battle, a judge ruled that the traces in water were too small to hurt anyone's health or property values. At the same time, a state study showed there were no increases in any ailment in the area — despite decades of exposure.

Source: http://www.twincities.com/ci_14117154?nclick_check=1

26. *January 4, WOFL 35 Orlando* – (Florida) **Fire breaks out at Marion County water plant.** An early fire broke out early Monday morning at the Marion County water plant in Ocala, Florida. Marion County Fire Rescue was called to the fire at on Oak Terrace, Ocala at 3:28 a.m. When firefighters arrived on scene the 1,000 square feet commercial structure was fully engulfed in flames and the roof was collapsed. Firefighters learned that there was chlorine inside the building so Marion County Fire Rescue's Hazmat team was called to the scene. The hazmat team monitored the facility for chlorine release while crews extinguished the fire. The water treatment facility, which is used a generator pump room, was not occupied at the time of the fire. The Florida State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the cause of the fire.

Source: http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/news/marion_alachua/010410-marion-water-plant-fire

27. *January 3, San Gabriel Valley Tribune* – (California) **Officials: Valley water clean enough for humans — but not fish.** A \$100 million plan to clean up groundwater contaminated by the aerospace industry faces setbacks as officials struggle to contain remnants of toxic waste. The plan was to clean water contaminated with perchlorates and other chemicals and discharge it into the San Gabriel River in California. “Although they meet drinking water standards, they don't meet water quality standards,” said a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). “It affects freshwater fish and microorganisms and their ability to reproduce. It doesn't affect humans.” So now, officials are scrambling to come up with a place to send the clean water. “We need to contain this plume before it reaches drinking water wells,” he said. “So we have to worry about time.” The problem is that there's already \$5 million worth of pipes and wells in place, ready to pump contaminated water into a treatment facility that would send it to the river, officials said. Whatever the solution, it will add millions of dollars to the cleanup's price tag, already estimated to cost \$100 million over the 30 years it is expected it will take to clean up the contamination. The companies responsible for the contamination — today part of Northrop Grumman and United Technologies Corporation — will be responsible for the added cost, according to the EPA.

Source: http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_14115739

28. *December 29, Associated Press* – (National) **Scientists begin testing mussels for pollutants.** California scientists hope studying 180 black mussels pried from algae-covered rocks in San Francisco Bay will provide clues into how many drugs and chemicals are polluting waters across the nation. Mussels filter water and store contaminants in their tissue, providing a record of pollution in the environment. The

creatures are being culled from 80 sites in California as part of a pilot study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to see how pervasive the substances have become. Regulators are concerned about an array of chemicals and pharmaceuticals that can accumulate in the tissue of animals and people. Recent studies found levels of PBDEs, or polybrominated diphenyl ethers, a flame retardant used in the manufacture of a wide range of consumer products, in waters off of every U.S. coast. The chemicals are being detected more often in surface water, state water quality officials said, but little data exists about how these substances negatively effect the health of humans and animals. After conducting tests on the mussels, the data will help guide the study of emerging contaminants in other states, said the program manager for NOAA's Mussel Watch, which has tested mussels since 1986. Until now NOAA's Mussel Watch has tested the bivalves for pollutants like the pesticide DDT. This pilot study could help guide regulators in determining what new pollutants in mussels should be regularly monitored.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091229/ap_on_sc/us_toxic_water_mussels_3

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *January 4, Web MD* – (National) **Vaccine refusal raises chickenpox risk.** Chickenpox cases have dropped by about 80 percent in the U.S. since a vaccine to prevent the disease became available almost 15 years ago, but many parents still reject immunization because of concerns about vaccine safety. Now new research confirms what public health officials have long known: Children whose parents refuse to allow chickenpox vaccination are at increased risk for getting the disease. From a group of close to 90,000 children enrolled in a Colorado health plan, researchers from the Kaiser Permanente Institute for Health Research in Denver identified 133 children who got chickenpox and compared them to 493 children matched for sex, age, and length of enrollment in the health plan who did not get the disease. They found that children were nine times as likely to get chickenpox, also known as varicella, when their parents refused to have them vaccinated. Overall, about 5 percent of chickenpox cases were attributable to vaccine refusal.

Source: <http://children.webmd.com/vaccines/news/20100104/vaccine-refusal-raises-chickenpox-risk>

30. *January 4, Cape Cod Times* – (Massachusetts) **Senior living facility evacuated after flooding.** Thirteen people were evacuated from a senior living facility Monday after the building's sprinkler system sprung a leak in the attic, a Bourne Fire Department spokesman said. About 16 units in one wing of the Cape Cod Senior Residences at Pocasset sustained damage. Most of the residents will be able to move back in Tuesday, the spokesman said, because only one room sustained major damage at the two-story facility. A few of the senior living facility's units were not occupied at the time of the flooding, he said. The facility's power had to be shut off as repair crews fixed electrical problems linked to the flooding.

Source:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100104/NEWS11/100109893>

31. *January 2, WHNS 21 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Doctor charged with torching Seneca clinic.** Police in Seneca, South Carolina, arrested an area doctor after officers said he tried to burn down his clinic. He was charged with arson and making a false statement in support of a claim to obtain insurance benefits for fire loss, FOX Carolina News reported. Authorities said the incident occurred Friday at about 7:02 a.m. at the Office of Nephrologists and Internal Medicine in Seneca. Police and fire departments said they were called to the scene after a smoke alarm alerted authorities that the building was on fire and emitting heavy smoke. The fire was extinguished quickly and the cause was determined to be arson, police said. Police said the damage to the clinic is estimated at \$200,000.
Source: <http://www.foxcarolina.com/news/22109897/detail.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *January 5, Associated Press* – (National) **New Orleans man charged with threatening to kill President Barack Obama during 911 call.** A New Orleans man has been arrested and charged with threatening to kill the President. In a court filing Monday, a Secret Service agent said the 47-year-old suspect dialed 911 early last Friday and told a police dispatcher that he planned to kill the President and the First Lady. The agent said he used telephone records to trace the call to the suspect's cell phone. Police arrested him Saturday and he was booked into jail on state charges that included illegal possession of a firearm and drug possession. The suspect remained in custody Monday. He is scheduled to make his initial appearance in federal court Friday.
Source: <http://www.startribune.com/nation/80665002.html>
33. *January 4, Reuters* – (National) **Threats against U.S. judges, prosecutors jump.** Threats against U.S. judges and federal prosecutors jumped 11.6 percent in fiscal 2008 and the U.S. Marshals Service assigned to protect them did not respond consistently to the threats, according to a government report released on Monday. Judges, court officials and prosecutors reported 1,278 threats in the year ended September 30, 2008, up from 1,145 in fiscal 2007 and more than double the 592 reported in 2003, said the report by the Justice Department's inspector general. "While threats against federal court officials have continued to increase in the past several years, we found critical deficiencies in the department's threat response program," the Inspector General said in a statement. The report found the Marshals Service did not consistently record the potential risk associated with the threat against the judicial officials, which made it difficult to determine whether the response to a threat was appropriate. In a handful of cases reviewed, four judges and an assistant U.S. attorney did not recall being given any of the protective measures they should have received even though the risk level was determined to be low. The Marshals Service also did not fully coordinate its responses to threats with the FBI and local law enforcement

authorities, the report found. And judges and prosecutors did not always report threats, it said.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/01/04/world/international-uk-usa-courts-security.html?_r=2

34. *January 4, FOX News & Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Las Vegas gunman upset over social security benefits.** A gunman upset over losing his Social Security benefits case, opened fire in the lobby of a federal building in downtown Las Vegas on Monday, killing a court officer and wounding a deputy U.S. marshal before he was shot to death. Two officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, because they were not authorized to discuss the case, identified the shooter to the Associated Press. While an investigation is under way, the officials say the early evidence points to the man's anger over his benefits as motive for the shooting. Court records show that the suspect sued the Social Security Administration in 2008, but the case was thrown out and formally closed in September 2009.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,581912,00.html?test=latestnews>

35. *January 4, FOX News* – (District of Columbia) **Secret Service says a third gate-crasher entered State dinner.** The Secret Service revealed Monday that a third individual who was not on the guest list made it into the November 24 White House state dinner, though the agency says the individual went through security screening and did not appear to have any interaction with the President. The Secret Service, which did not name the individual, said the information about the third party-crasher came out in the course of the investigation into the security breach. The Secret Service said in a written statement that the individual traveled from a "local hotel" where the Indian delegation was staying and arrived with the group at the dinner. "This individual went through all required security measures along with the rest of the official delegation at the hotel, and boarded a bus/van with the delegation guests en route to the White House," the Secret Service said. In the latest statement, the Secret Service said the Indian delegation with whom the third party-crasher was traveling was "under the responsibility" of the State Department. But it said new changes would be implemented to prevent a repeat. "Procedural changes have already been implemented to address foreign delegations under the responsibility of Department of State who are entering facilities secured by the Secret Service," the statement said.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/01/04/secret-service-says-gate-crasher-entered-state-dinner/?test=latestnews>

36. *January 4, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Former Army Ranger faces another 20 years in prison for attack, plot to kill prosecutor.** A former Army Ranger who is already serving 24 years in federal prison center for masterminding a bank robbery in Tacoma four years ago pled guilty today to attacking a co-defendant in prison and trying to hire a hitman to kill an assistant US attorney. The 22 year-old suspect pleaded guilty in U. S. District Court to one count of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of solicitation of a crime of violence. He faces an additional twenty years in prison at his sentencing scheduled for March 29. In his plea agreement, the suspect admitted that he had, on two occasions last March, offered as much as \$20,000 for the

assault and murder of an assistant U.S. attorney. The name of the attorney targeted by the suspect was not released by the U.S. Attorney's Office. An Assistant U.S. Attorney said on Monday that the suspect told an undercover FBI agent that he did not care how his intended target was killed, just that the death be reported as a murder and not an accident. The U.S. Attorney said, "We take all threats and violence against law enforcement and court staff very seriously, and will fully prosecute those responsible. As we have in this case, we will seek significant punishment."

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2010697642_websommer05m.html?syndication=rss

For more stories, see items [18](#) and [19](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

37. *January 4, Oakland Tribune & San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **East Palo Alto police say gunfire detection system working well.** A year after East Palo Alto, California, became the first U.S. municipality to get a citywide gunfire detection system, the police department continues to sing the system's praises. The police chief and other department leaders say ShotSpotter has helped officers arrive at shooting scenes more quickly, aided in computer-assisted crime trend analyses, and contributed to a roughly 20 percent drop in firearm assaults from a year ago. On December 31, 2007, Mountain View-based ShotSpotter Inc. activated gunfire detection sensors in a one-half-square-mile portion of the city for no charge, naming East Palo Alto its national test site for software updates. A year later, the city used a \$230,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant to extend coverage to its entire 2.5 square miles, the chief said. About 40 sensors interspersed throughout East Palo Alto now alert personnel at a San Mateo County dispatch center in Redwood City when they detect a gunshot or firecracker.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_14122325

38. *January 4, Associated Press & Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Weapon stolen from squad car.** A handgun belonging to an Indianola, Iowa, police officer was stolen from the officer's squad car while she was on vacation. Indianola's police chief says the officer noticed Sunday someone stole her Glock 9mm pistol from the city squad car parked on a street. According to the chief, someone had rummaged through the vehicle, but nothing else was stolen. As response to the theft, police officials may revisit the department's policy that allows officers to store weapons in their vehicles. He says at times it is better for officer to keep the guns in a car when off duty.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-weaponstolen,0,446269.story>

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Information Technology Sector

39. *January 5, IDG News Service* – (International) **Symantec product hits end-of-decade snafu.** Symantec is warning that its Endpoint Protection Manager server product is erroneously marking signature updates issued this year as out of date. Symantec’s issue is one of few scattered reports of software problems related to the end of the decade, including one allegedly involving Microsoft’s Windows Mobile OS. The problem affects the Endpoint Protection v11.x and v12.x versions of the company’s small business edition of the product. Antivirus, antispymware, and intrusion protection updates with a date after December 31, 2009, at 11:59 p.m. are considered out of date by the software, the company wrote on its blog. Symantec has worked around the problem by issuing updates with new revision numbers but with the December 31 date while a permanent fix is developed. The company said the problem also affects customers using NAC (Network Access Control) with Host Integrity, which checks to see if the antivirus definitions are up to date for clients connecting to a network. Symantec said the Host Integrity check will fail but there is a work-around, which the company details in its blog post. The end of the decade may also be causing problems for Microsoft’s Windows Mobile OS. Various sources have reported that some users running Windows Mobile 6.1 or 6.5 noticed that text messages sent after the new year are dated 2016. Although a work-around has been posted to WMExperts, other users on that forum reported no problems. Microsoft said on January 4 it was aware of the issue but that “these reports have not yet resulted in widespread customer inquiries.”
Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/010510-symantec-product-hits-end-of-decade.html?hpg1=bn>
40. *January 5, SC Magazine* – (International) **Cross-site scripting vulnerabilities see two political websites hacked.** Political websites were hacked January 5, leaving leaders embarrassed. A report on BBC News said that visitors to Spain’s EU presidency website were greeted by an image of comedy character instead of the Spanish Prime Minister. The government said that the site - www.eu2010.es - had not been attacked and that a hacker had taken a screenshot of the homepage to make a photo montage using a cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerability. A senior security advisor at Trend Micro, said that the compromise only lasted a few hours until the original content was restored and site administrators were reportedly working on a fix. He said: “In this instance there does not appear to have been any malicious intent, but the dangers of XSS vulnerabilities should not be underestimated. Cross-site scripting vulnerabilities allow attackers to inject code into innocent web pages in which it would not otherwise appear. The security expert also flagged a compromise on the official website of the president of Iran.”
Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/cross-site-scripting-vulnerabilities-see-two-political-websites-hacked/article/160597/>
41. *January 4, The Register* – (International) **Kingston coughs to security flaw in ‘Secure’ flash drive.** Kingston Technology is instructing customers to return certain models of its memory sticks, after the firm discovered a glitch in its DataTraveler Secure flash drives. The company said in a security notice that the models affected were “privacy” editions of the DataTraveler Secure, DataTraveler Elite and DataTraveler Blackbox. Kingston said the security flaw could allow a wrongdoer to

hack into the memory sticks. “A skilled person with the proper tools and physical access to the drives may be able to gain unauthorised access to data,” warned the vendor. Kingston added that a number of its USB drives were not affected by the security flaw. Customers whose drives could be exploited by the security loophole should return the product, where Kingston said it would apply a factory update. Kingston had claimed that its Data Traveler Secure drive was the first of its kind to protect “100 percent of data on-the-fly via 256-bit hardware-based AES encryption.” Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/04/kingston_technology_flash_drive_flaw/

42. *January 4, Help Net Security* – (International) **25 million new malware strains in one year.** The outstanding trend of the last 12 months has been the prolific production of new malware: 25 million new strains were created in just one year, compared to a combined total of 15 million throughout the last 20 years. This is one of the findings of the latest malware report by PandaLabs which reviews the major incidents and events concerning IT security in 2009. This latest surge of activity included countless new examples of banker Trojans (some 66 percent) as well as a host of fake anti-virus programs (rogueware.) The report also draws attention to the resurgence of traditional viruses, previously on the verge of extinction, such as Conficker, Sality, or the veteran Virutas. As regards malware distribution channels, social networks (mainly Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, or Digg), and SEO attacks (directing users to malware-laden websites) have been favored by cyber-criminals, who have been consolidating underground business models to increase revenues. The report also examines how individual countries and regions have been affected throughout the year. Taiwan tops the rankings, followed by Russia, Poland, Turkey, Colombia, Argentina, and Spain. Countries suffering fewest infections include Portugal and Sweden. Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1185

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

43. *January 4, IDG News Services* – (National) **DOJ recommends FCC quickly free up more spectrum.** Supporting wireless broadband providers is key to encouraging broadband competition, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) advised the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on January 4. In a filing submitted in response to an FCC request for comments on its national broadband plan, the DOJ said that it is unrealistic to try to promote “textbook markets of perfect competition” since the provision of broadband services is so costly. “Rather, promoting competition is likely

to take the form of enabling additional entry and expansion by wireless broadband providers,” among other activities, the DOJ wrote. That means the FCC must work hard to quickly make more spectrum available for wireless broadband services, the agency said. “We urge the Commission to give priority to making more spectrum available to wireless broadband providers so as to maximize their potential to compete against the established wireline ones,” the DOJ wrote. “There is no time to spare.” Once the FCC identifies and frees up new spectrum, it should devise a way to ensure that new, competitive providers win the spectrum, the DOJ said. That has been a thorny issue historically and the DOJ did not seem to have a great solution to the problem. The FCC could run an auction where incumbents’ bids are discounted — not in terms of what they pay but in order to determine who wins. But the FCC would have to be able to figure out by how much to discount the bids, the DOJ said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9143035/DOJ_recommends_FCC_quickly_free_up_more_spectrum

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Commercial Facilities Sector

44. *January 5, Canadian Press* – (International) **Molotov cocktail tossed into Hamilton mosque.** The Hamilton, Ontario, police arson and hate crimes units are investigating after a Molotov cocktail was thrown into a mosque overnight. Police were called to the Hamilton Mosque and discovered the firebomb had been thrown through a window of the Islamic school at the mosque. It landed in the principal’s office and ignited. Police say damage is estimated at \$3,000. About 200 children attend the school.
Source: <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/breakingnews/Molotov-cocktail-tossed-into-Hamilton-mosque-hate-crimes-unit-probes.html>

45. *January 4, Spokane Spokesman-Review* – (Washington) **Explosives removed from Spokane Valley apartment.** Explosives popular among suicide bombers were removed Monday from a Spokane Valley apartment belonging to a man upset about his divorce, authorities said. The accused man, 53, allowed detectives into his home at the Oakwood Club Apartments, on N. McDonald Road, and showed them the material, which was stored in a glass jar, according to the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office. The apartment complex had been evacuated but officials expected to begin letting residents into their units later that night. Residents along the west side of Broadway were asked to stay inside, and a portion of McDonald Road was blocked. A bomb squad planned to detonate the estimated half pound of “very potent, very unstable explosives,” identified as acetone peroxide, or TATP, in a secure location, said a sergeant said. The material was removed from the home by a robot about 8 p.m. The man was transported by ambulance to the Spokane County Jail, where he was booked on a civil bench warrant. He faces possible criminal charges related to manufacturing and possession explosives said. It was unclear what initially brought him to the attention of law enforcement, but detectives learned he was upset about his divorce proceedings in Spokane County Superior Court and might be building bombs. The substance is sometimes used by

suicide bombers, according to terrorism experts at GlobalSecurity.org.

Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/jan/04/bomb-squad-called-valley-apartments-evacuated/>

46. *January 4, Justice News Flash* – (Michigan) **Two dead, three injured after fatal hotel blaze.** A fire broke out, tragically killing two and leaving three others injured in Midtown Detroit on New Years Eve, according to information provided by the Detroit Free Press. The blaze reportedly broke out around 8:30 p.m. Detroit Fire Department (DFD) officials reportedly claimed that an inebriated man allegedly attempted to light a cigarette with a burning piece of paper when he dropped the lit paper onto his bed sheets, consequently setting the bed on fire. When the Huntington Hotel resident opened his door to call for help, the flames continued to spread down the hall. Fire rescue crews from DFD responded to the scene to transport the injured to area hospitals for treatment. Two victims, both residents of the hotel, were allegedly pronounced dead that night, December 31, 2009. The blaze allegedly left one resident in critical condition. A firefighter also sustained second-degree burns. A female resident directly above the room in which the blaze was ignited, was allegedly unaccounted for after the incident. After the fire, 22 of the 49 total residents living in the Huntington Hotel were reportedly given emergency debit cards to purchase food and clothing. Also, 14 residents were moved to Madison Heights Hotel with the help of the southeast Michigan chapter of the American Red Cross.

Source: http://www.justicenewsflash.com/2010/01/04/dead-injured-fatal-hotel-blaze_201001042904.html

47. *January 4, KTLA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **Patrols increased after O.C. mosque attacks.** Police in Costa Mesa, California, have increased patrols near an Orange County mosque that was targeted in recent anti-Islamic attacks. A burned and torn copy of the Koran was found during New Year's Day prayers at the Islamic Educational Center of Orange County. It was the second time in about two weeks that a desecrated Koran was found at the mosque. "This deplorable incident is a form of anti-Islamic assault, hate crime and terror campaign against American Muslims," a statement on the Costa Mesa mosque's Web site read. Vandals also recently defaced part of an outdoor interfaith holiday display in Mission Viejo. According to police, the vandals painted over a verse from the Koran and left behind a piece of paper reading, "No Islamic Lighthouses in the U.S.A." The Christian components of the holiday were untouched. The Costa Mesa Police Department has stepped up patrols in the area but no arrests have been made. The incidents are thought to be unrelated but appear to be part of a recent increase in anti-Muslim acts across the nation following the attempted terrorist bombing of a jetliner headed to Detroit on Christmas, a council spokeswoman told the Los Angeles Times.

Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-mosque-vandalized,0,6306717.story>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

48. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **National Park Service says Nantucket Sound eligible for special protections.** Federal officials on Monday agreed to a request by two Indian tribes for special protections for Nantucket Sound, a move that could delay construction of a proposed wind farm off Cape Cod. The National Park Service said the sound is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a significant traditional cultural, historic and archaeological property. The Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag tribes say the designation, which would come with new regulations for activity on the sound, is needed to preserve the tribe’s sacred rituals. The Wampanoag practice sacred rituals requiring an unblocked view of the sunrise. That view will not exist if the Cape Wind project’s 130 turbines, each over 400 feet tall, are built several miles from the Cape Cod shore across a 25-square-mile swath of federal waters. The turbines would be visible to Wampanoag in Mashpee and on Martha’s Vineyard. The designation could add months to the approval process by forcing developers to comply with the designation’s standards.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/politics/wire/sns-ap-us-wind-farm-ruling,0,7653200.story>
49. *January 3, Rapid City Journal* – (South Dakota) **Rushmore plans spraying, thinning to slow beetle advance.** Thinning out smaller trees and spraying with chemicals could help protect the majestic old-growth ponderosa pines in and around Mount Rushmore National Memorial from beetles and fire. Rushmore officials will ask the National Park Service for additional money to combat an expected invasion by mountain pine beetles in the 1,200 acres of forest, including old-growth pines, within the memorial’s boundaries. “We have a short-term strategy and a long-term strategy, because this landscape change is going to happen,” Rushmore’s curator said. Short-term efforts will include spraying some trees with Sevin, particularly around visitor-use areas, to repel the beetles, he said. Spot infestations have already hit trees at the memorial. Infested trees near the residence area and the water treatment plant have been cut down, he added. Thinning will occur both in the short term and over the long haul. Some thinning is already going on at the memorial, including efforts by fire management personnel.
Source: http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/article_3cbe37ec-f8da-11de-a008-001cc4c002e0.html

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Dams Sector

50. *January 5, KRCG 13 Columbia/Jefferson City* – (Missouri) **Cole County drains Renn’s Lake in freezing temperatures.** Cole County public works crews braved single-digit temperatures Monday to take down the dam and drain Renn’s Lake. Heavy rains this past fall threatened to collapse the dam. It is the first step toward a potential hand-over of the property to the county. The heavy equipment operators who spent the day knocking down the dam at Renn’s Lake were in a race against time and temperature. The move to drain the lake comes after a near disaster here at the end of October. Heavy rains opened a 15-foot gap in the dam, sending tons of water toward

the businesses and highway below. Crews used siphons and hoses to take the pressure off the 50 year-old dam. The old Renn's Lake Dam was not high enough to come under state regulation.

Source: <http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=397103>

51. *January 4, Rockbridge Weekly and Alleghany Journal Newsline* – (Virginia) **Dam gate fails at Lake Merriweather; no current threat.** On the afternoon of January 4, a failure of one of Lake Merriweather's dam gates was reported, but according to the Rockbridge County deputy Emergency Management coordinator, it "poses no immediate danger to the public." Maury River, Virginia, area residents may see the river rise up to 3 feet on Monday night or even through Tuesday. The coordinator noted that the water in Goshen Pass was noticeably higher, but the river was still within its banks late Monday. He notified the public via the Alert Rockbridge system on Monday, but did not indicate the cause of the failure. When repairs can be made was not indicated. The lake is part of the Goshen Boy Scout Reservation and is owned by the Boy Scouts of America.

Source: http://www.rockbridgeweekly.com/rw_article.php?ndx=16287

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