Homeland Security
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 May 2010

Top Stories

- The Associated Press reports that Canadian fighter jets escorted a Cathay Pacific airliner coming from Hong Kong to a safe landing in Vancouver International Airport May 15 following a bomb threat, officials said. Royal Canadian Mounted Police said that passengers had been safely taken off the plane and that nothing of concern had been found in the baggage. (See item 30)

- According to eWeek, Google said May 14 it will no longer collect WiFi data after discovering that its Street View cars unwittingly collected personal information from citizens’ networks, a violation of privacy sure to inflame leaders of countries already wary of Google’s data-collection practices. (See item 54)

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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. May 16, Reuters – (National) BP reports limited success in containing oil spill. Energy giant BP reported a limited success at containing the oil that is gushing
unabated into the Gulf of Mexico May 16, but a skeptical U.S. government said it was “not a solution.” Reports of huge oil plumes in the Gulf, including one as large as 10 miles long, three miles wide and 300 feet thick, underscored the drama’s gravity. Crude oil has been flowing unchecked from a ruptured well about a mile (1.6 km) under the ocean’s surface, threatening an ecological and economic calamity along the U.S. Gulf Coast. After other attempts to contain the spill failed, BP Plc succeeded in inserting a tube into the leaking well and capturing some oil and gas. The underwater operation used guided robots to insert a small tube into a 21-inch (53-cm) pipe, known as a riser, to funnel the oil to a ship at the surface. “It’s working as planned and we are very slowly increasing the rate that is coming from the riser tool up to the surface,” a BP senior executive vice president told reporters at BP’s U.S. headquarters in Houston. Not all of the oil was being trapped, however.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1521453720100517?type=marketsNews

2. May 15, Associated Press – (South Dakota) Sioux Falls neighborhood evacuated for gas issue. The smell of gas in a Sioux Falls, South Dakota neighborhood forced several residents out of their homes for a few hours. The odor was reported just before 6 p.m. May 14. The Sioux Falls fire department said a MidAmerican Energy worker found natural gas readings from a house that had been vacant for some time and shut off gas to the building. Power to the neighborhood was shut off until fire crews could ventilate the house. As a precaution, nearby residents were evacuated. They were allowed to return about 8:15 p.m. No injuries were reported


3. May 15, Syracuse Post-Standard – (New York) National Grid subcontractor van explodes in Liverpool. A utility van erupted into flames Friday afternoon in the village of Liverpool, New York. Flames exploded from the Premier Utility Services truck about 3:30 p.m. on Second Street (Route 370) at Sycamore Street. The company was working on a National Grid project at the time. No one was in the van at the time. The fire was attributed to exploding spray paint cans inside the vehicle. A Premier employee could not be reached for comment.


4. May 15, WPVI 6 Philadelphia – (New Jersey) Severe storms cause damage, knock out power. More than 17,000 power outages were reported in Cumberland County, New Jersey, at the height of the storm last Friday. A funnel cloud was also reported in Emmaus, Lehigh County. Officials said the funnel cloud never touched the ground. Winds up to 60 miles per hour moved through the Lehigh Valley and other parts of the tri-state area. There were no official reports of tornadoes as the National Weather Service reports only straight-line winds struck Bridgeton, New Jersey. The winds were strong enough to splint utility poles and knock down power lines.


5. May 14, Associated Press – (South Dakota) Blown transformers cause outage in South Dakota. Two blown transformers near Interstate 29 in southeast South Dakota
left more than 1,000 homes and businesses without power, May 14. Xcel Energy said the outage started just before 10 a.m. and affected the communities of Baltic, Crooks, Dell Rapids, Garretson, Renner and Sioux Falls and outlying areas. The Tea fire department said the blown transformers pulled down power lines, causing the outage. Schools there were without power, forcing district officials to cancel classes and send students home.

6. May 1, WFOR 4 Doral – (Florida) Golden glades reopens after rollover tanker crash. Monday morning, May 17, workers finished their clean up of State Road 826 at the I-95 interchange of which portions were shutdown Sunday after an oil tanker truck overturned. The accident, which happened Sunday afternoon, affected the westbound SR 826 lanes at the I-95 off ramp, the I-95 flyover as well as the southbound lanes of U.S. 441 and the eastbound lanes of SR 826. Tri-Rail was also affected by the spill. Riders were bused between the Opa-Locka and Hollywood station. Just before midnight the tracks were cleared, according to the marketing manager for Tri-Rail. She said the trains would resume normal operations at 4 a.m. Monday. Hazardous materials crews spent the night cleaning up the mess and were able to open all lanes of I-95 and SR 826 early Monday.
Source: http://cbs4.com/local/826.overturned.oil.2.1698029.html

Chemical Industry Sector

7. May 15, Beaumont Enterprise – (Texas) Chemical plant fire started after power outage. The fire at the Chemtrade Logistics plant in the 1400 block of Olin Road Saturday, May 15 began after the plant was being restarted because of a weather-related power outage, Chemtrade’s director of manufacturing told The Enterprise. The fire, which damaged the plant’s sulphur dioxide unit, began about 2:30 a.m. and workers were on site at the time. The plant’s emergency plan relies on the 911-system and the local firefighters who handled the fire. The manufacturing director confirmed that the plant is shut down and will remain that way until officials have determined it is safe. Firefighters responded to the reported explosion and fire about 3:10 a.m., arriving to find the sulphur dioxide unit heavily involved with fire. Firefighters contained the fire to the sulphur dioxide unit, and there were no injuries to plant workers or firefighters. Workers in other nearby plants were advised to shelter in place during the fire, and firefighters remained on the scene until about 10:30 a.m. The extent of the damage is not yet known. Air monitoring had shown no danger from air emissions after the fire.

8. May 15, Delaware News-Journal – (Delaware) None injured in explosion at DuPont Experimental Station. The cause of a chemical explosion May 14 at the DuPont
Experimental Station in Alapocas, Delaware is being investigated by the state fire marshal’s office. Firefighters put out a flash fire in a temporary cold-storage unit in a shipping and receiving area in Building 361 in the 200 block of Powder Mill Road about 9:30 a.m. A DuPont spokesman said the chemical reaction occurred in a container of peroxide. There were no injuries and no damage other than to the freezer where the chemical was stored. Hazardous materials workers remained on the scene to clean up a residual spill. There were no environmental issues as a result of the incident. Eight people were exposed to the peroxide fumes, which can irritate the nose, throat and lungs. The employees were evaluated by DuPont medical personnel and were decontaminated with water. Two employees were taken to Christiana Hospital for further evaluation and later released. Operations on the site were not disrupted. Source: http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100515/BUSINESS/5150324

9. May 14, WCVB 5 Boston – (New Hampshire) **2 killed in explosions at gunpowder plant.** Two people were killed in a series of explosions in Colebrook, New Hampshire, May 14. Officials said the two people were in a building when three explosions shook the town just after 1 p.m. The explosion occurred at Black Mag Industries, a subsidiary of MDM Muzzleloaders. The facility makes synthetic gunpowder for certain types of firearms. The material is less explosive than regular gunpowder. People said they heard the explosions from miles away and saw heavy black smoke coming from the area. Fewer than 20 people work in the facility, according to the fire marshal’s office. The building is on Gould Street and is part of an industrial park that includes a church and Codet Manufacturing. The condition of those buildings is not known. A large section of the Black Mag Industries building was blown out, though much of the building was still standing. Border Patrol, state and local police, the fish and game department, and several fire departments from the area responded. Officials said the fire was still burning hours after the blasts. Firefighters had difficulty controlling the fire for the first 90 minutes because ammunition kept going off. Chunks of foam debris and ashes were pushed out 200 feet or more from the building. About 40 people from surrounding homes and businesses were temporarily evacuated as a safety precaution. Source: http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/23561659/detail.html

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

10. May 17, Rutland Herald – (National) **Tritium leak poses integrity question.** A former Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) official now working for the Union of Concerned Scientists said the NRC was a “lapdog” of the nuclear industry and wasn’t enforcing its own regulations when it came to “unmonitored and uncontrolled” radioactive tritium leaks. The former NRC official, a nuclear engineer who at one time was a member of the Vermont Public Oversight Panel, told the annual meeting of the New England Coalition May 15 that the NRC could have fined Entergy Nuclear $140,000 a day for every day it leaked tritium and other radioactive substances into the groundwater and ground, but it didn’t. The former NRC official said based on Entergy’s own estimate of 90 days of uncontrolled and unmonitored releases, the NRC
could have fined Entergy $12.6 million for the Vermont Yankee tritium leak alone. In some cases, the former NRC official said, nuclear plants have leaks for years, not months as in Yankee’s case. In fact, he said, virtually every commercial reactor in the country was leaking tritium, not the two-dozen plus number usually used by the NRC. He said he compiled his list of leaking reactors based on the NRC’s own documents. “Virtually every nuclear plant in the U.S. has reported leaks and many have reported many leaks,” he told the 30 people gathered at the Gibson River Garden in downtown Brattleboro. “And no one knows how many leaks have not yet been found. Having set the safety bar at an appropriate height, the NRC meekly watches plant owner after plant owner limbo beneath it,” he said. A spokeswoman for Region One of the NRC, said May 16 that the NRC considers that 34 reactors are currently or have recently been leaking tritium. She said that number represented plants that had contaminated groundwater.
Source: [http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20100517/NEWS02/5170366/1003/NEWS02](http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20100517/NEWS02/5170366/1003/NEWS02)

11. **May 17, San Luis Obispo Tribune** – (California) **Diablo Canyon and PG&E deal with water-cooling mandate.** On May 4, the California Water Resources Control Board adopted a new policy that declared these once-through cooling systems used at Diablo Canyon in San Luis Obispo County, and 18 other coastal power plants in California to be antiquated. The board gave the utilities that own those plants deadlines for installing less environmentally damaging cooling systems. White foam churns on the surface of the water in the outfall cove at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. Once-through cooling damages the environment because it kills adult and larval fish. The flood of warmer discharge water also alters the marine ecosystem around the plant. In the case of Diablo Canyon, owners Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) have until the last day of 2024 to comply with the new policy. That date was intentionally set to coincide with the planned renewal of the plant’s two operating licenses currently under review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. However, that’s where the clarity ends. It won’t be known for another three years what type of alternative technology PG&E will be required to implement at Diablo Canyon. PG&E is not saying what technology it will recommend. “At this stage, there is much more study that needs to be done,” said a PG&E spokeswoman. A range of cooling options is available. These include replacing once-through cooling with a closed-loop system that uses much less water, modifying the once-through cooling system so it is less damaging, or some combination of the two. A third-party technical team with nuclear industry experience will be named to study these options. In three years, the team will recommend to the water board what technology best suits the plant.

12. **May 16, Kalamazoo Gazette** – (Michigan) **Human error a problem at Palisades nuclear plant, but facility is run safely, NRC says.** Human error continued to hinder operations in 2009 at the Palisades nuclear power plant, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The panel found last year that workers failed to notice a problem in the pool where spent fuel rods are stored. The finding kept Palisades for
the second year in a row on an NRC list of plants that require additional regulatory oversight. A plant spokesman disputed the NRC’s finding, saying the pool is safe. He said the 700-worker plant takes training and human error issues very seriously. Palisades has “strong training programs that focus on human performance,” said the spokesman. But the problem, reported by the NRC in its annual safety assessment of the nuclear plant, follows several notable lapses at the plant in recent years, including: A 2008 NRC safety assessment found Palisades failed “to recognize and assess the impact of radiological hazards in the workplace.” The NRC found Palisades failed to determine how much radiation employees were exposed to after radiation monitors worn by the workers warned of an exposure. Also in 2008, five workers were trapped for 90 minutes inside a high-temperature area when a hatch malfunctioned. The NRC found the plant did not take proper precautions to prevent such entrapments. In 2007, the plant came under scrutiny after its head of security resigned amid revelations he had fabricated some of his credentials. Despite the incidents, NRC officials said the plant is operated safely and plant officials have addressed issues of human error raised in the past. But the commission still has concerns about the ability of plant workers to identify issues before they become serious problems, an NRC spokeswoman said.


13. May 15, Brattleboro Reformer – (Vermont) Yankee to be back on line next week. Nineteen days into its refueling outage, operations are winding down at Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. It is expected that some time the week of May 17, the plant will be back on line and producing 650 megawatts of electricity. This stage of the outage is called demobilization, when scaffolding and other equipment related to the completed work is being removed. “Much of the work has involved upgrades to improve the plant’s long-term reliability such as the replacement of a reactor feed pump motor, sleeving the plant’s condenser tubes, and completing the third (and final) phase of the cooling tower upgrades including the safety-related section of the west tower,” wrote a Yankee spokesman in an e-mail to the media. The spokesman stated that the refueling of the reactor has been completed. The process involved the changeout of 116 spent fuel assemblies for new assemblies and the rearranging of the remaining 252 assemblies in the reactor core. The spent fuel assemblies were moved to the spent fuel pool next to the reactor vessel. The testing and inspection of major plant components during the outage so far have included the reactor internals, the main steam isolation valves and various heat exchangers, the spokesman wrote. “Engineers are analyzing the data gathered on the condition of the reactor internals including the reactor vessel and the steam dryer,” he stated. Engineers also leak tested eight, main steam-isolation valves. “Two were found to need work on their seating surfaces to bring them into very precise specifications,” the spokesman wrote.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_15091105

14. May 15, Sarnia Observer – (International) Plan to ship nuclear generators draws fire. A company’s plan to ship radioactive steam generators on the Great Lakes is drawing criticism from the mayor of Sarnia, Ontario in Canada. The mayor said he has
seen no evidence Bruce Power has consulted with communities along the shipping route. The company plans to transport 16 generators this fall from its nuclear plant near Kincardine, Ontario, to Owen Sound, Ontario. From there, the generators will be loaded on a ship that will travel the Great Lakes and the St. Clair River en route to a recycler in Sweden. Removing the generators is part of a refurbishment project at the plant near Kincardine, company officials have said. Officials have said the generators contain only “low level” radiation and will be welded shut and cleaned before transport.

Source: [http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20100515/NEWS05/100515008/1002/NEWS01/Plan+to+ship+nuclear+generators+draws+fire+](http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20100515/NEWS05/100515008/1002/NEWS01/Plan+to+ship+nuclear+generators+draws+fire+)

15. **May 15, New London Day** – (Connecticut) **Retired Millstone worker alleges safety compromises at Millstone, NRC.** Federal regulators are investigating allegations by a retired Millstone Power Station worker that plant owner Dominion puts profits ahead of safety, and that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is not thoroughly managing safety issues. The former worker, a pro-nuclear retiree who took a company buyout in March, said the way Dominion has handled staffing cuts in key areas at the nuclear complex in Waterford, Connecticut, along with an electrical mishap that forced a manual shutdown at the plant and the monitoring of fire doors, contribute to a “cover-up culture” that could compromise public safety. This would be similar to the way safety was compromised in the late 1990s at the Waterford plant, and in 2002 at the Davis-Besse reactor in Ohio, the former worker said. Dominion officials denied the allegations about lax safety, or that profits motivated cutbacks in staffing. The former worker is concerned about the danger to the public posed by lax regulatory oversight and mismanagement of “safety culture,” such as occurred at Davis-Besse in 2002. In that case, in which a reactor lid was corroded by an acid leak, a Government Accountability Report found the NRC “should have but did not identify or prevent the vessel head corrosion” because of inaccurate and incomplete inspections.

Source: [http://www.theday.com/article/20100515/BIZ02/305159919/-1/BIZ](http://www.theday.com/article/20100515/BIZ02/305159919/-1/BIZ)

16. **May 14, Press of Atlantic City** – (New Jersey) **Oyster Creek addresses residents’ tritium concerns.** The Oyster Creek Generating Station in Lacey Township, New Jersey mailed a letter Friday to about 16,000 residents who live near the plant to allay fears that a 2009 tritium spill might harm public drinking water. “First, let me be clear about this: all tritium leaks were stopped last year and extensive monitoring, sampling and testing has shown that no detectable level of tritium has left the plant property, nor do we expect it to,” the site vice president for Exelon Nuclear, wrote in the letter. The state Department of Environmental Protection this month invoked the state Spill Act to oversee the cleanup of the April 2009 tritium spill after on-site well tests revealed at least some of the 180,000 gallons of radioactive water had seeped into the Cohansey Aquifer, an underground reservoir that provides drinking water for about 1 million residents in southern New Jersey. The letter then presented “the rest of the facts” it deemed pertinent to the spill. They include that the plant is replacing underground pipes that carry tritium at a cost of more than $12 million. Well-monitoring and surface-water testing off site have detected no unusual or hazardous levels of tritium,
which occurs in tiny amounts in nature. There is no evidence of a threat to public drinking water supplies. “These are the facts, and the facts are very important, especially when it comes to public health and safety,” the site vice president said in the letter.

Source: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/ocean/article_52d8541c-5fd3-11df-8ef9-001cc4c002e0.html

Critical Manufacturing Sector

17. *May 17, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Suspicious package empties Toyota.** Hundreds of employees at a northern Kentucky Toyota engineering facility were evacuated after officials were called in to investigate a suspicious package delivered to the mailroom. A spokeswoman for Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing North America said the May 14 incident lasted about two and a half hours and the package was determined to be harmless. The spokesman said between 900 and 1,000 people work at what is known as TEMA in Erlanger. She said employees were allowed to go home but many stayed and returned to work once they were allowed back inside the building. A supervisor in the FBI’s Covington office, said FBI agents were called to the scene along with local law enforcement agencies.


18. *May 17, Huntington News Network* – (West Virginia) **West Virginia EPA determined orange haze at Huntington Special Metals, non-hazardous.** A huge fireball and orange haze rising from the Special Metals plant in Huntington, West Virginia attracted dozens of call to 911. The cloud has dissipated and a spokesperson at the plant has told an area TV station that “it did not appear to be any kind of hazard.” However, a company spokesman told another TV station that the project had “high iron content” and a “crane malfunctioned,” causing a “reaction between the iron and an unknown chemical.” The spokesman told the station that the company had notified the National Response Center about the incident. A representative from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) told HNN by phone that the incident had been determined by West Virginia DEP as non-hazardous. Both he and a representative from the National Response Center stated that often precautionary reports are made when uncertainty exists of the discharge. “It’s better to err on the side of caution,” the EPA spokesperson said. By making the preliminary report, the facility has complied with regulations should the spill or emission be determined later as hazardous.

Source: http://www.huntingtonnews.net/local/100517-rutherford-localspecialmetals.html

Defense Industrial Base Sector
19. *May 17, Military Times* – (National) **Corps works to lengthen lives of old CH-53s.** Marine officials are working overtime to keep the Corps’ aging CH-53s flying until the next-generation heavy-lift helicopter comes online in 2018, three years later than expected. The program manager for all CH-53s, said his team is on track to conduct the CH-53K’s critical design review this summer. That will be the last major step before the new aircraft is approved for production. Officials hope to have the first new bird conducting flight tests in 2013. In the meantime, the Corps will ask even more of its CH-53Ds and Es. “I think we’re going to be fine,” the manager said, but it would be “foolhardy not to be concerned about an aging aircraft. We have to be diligent. ... If we don’t do anything, we could be in trouble in the next five years or less.” A diagnostic system on board the older aircraft helps Marine officials track the bird’s reliability. Typically, mechanical failure doesn’t happen overnight, the manager said. Officials hope the data collected from the diagnostics will help them predict when failure is most likely to occur. Additionally, officials have determined that if they replace the bulkhead in the tail of the CH-53Es before they reach 6,190 flight hours, they can keep them flying to 10,000 hours. Engineers also have discovered that extra maintenance on the Delta models can extend the aircraft’s lifespan to 12,500 hours, so long as the work is completed before the bird hits 10,000 hours, the manager said. Source: [http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/05/marine_ch53k_051610w/](http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/05/marine_ch53k_051610w/)

20. *May 13, Agence France-Presse* – (National) **Macau resident convicted in U.S. of illegal defense exports.** A Portuguese citizen who lives in Macau has been convicted of trying to illegally export communications, encryption, and GPS equipment used by the U.S. military and NATO forces, the Department of Justice said May 12. He was convicted by a federal jury in San Diego May 11 of trying to export defense articles to Macau and Hong Kong without a license. He was arrested in Atlanta in June 2009. The Justice Department did not mention the ultimate destination for the equipment the suspect was seeking, but Wired magazine quoted a government affidavit in the case as saying he was acting at the direction of Chinese officials. According to court documents, the suspect contacted a company in Britain in 2006 to obtain components related to the VDC-300 data controller, a device made by a California defense contractor which is used by the U.S. and NATO militaries to route data to and from tactical radios. He also sought to obtain a PSN-13, a Global Positioning System device used by the United States and NATO, and a PRC-148, a multi-band handheld radio system manufactured by Thales Communications that was originally designed for U.S. Special Operations Command. He also sought to obtain a CYZ-10, which is used by U.S. and NATO forces to load encryption software into communication devices such as tactical radios to allow them to communicate securely. He also attempted to buy a KG-175 TAClane Encryptor, a General Dynamics device made under contract with the National Security Agency for use by the U.S. military which encrypts Internet Protocol communications. Source: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gfRebJyqnl7CglYEdPOEJbTHM9Mg](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gfRebJyqnl7CglYEdPOEJbTHM9Mg)
21. *May 13, Associated Press* – (National) **Taiwan man pleads guilty in Iran missile case.** A Taiwanese businessman pleaded guilty May 13 to federal charges arising from an undercover investigation into the illegal export to Iran of items that can be used for missiles, unmanned drones, and other military purposes. He pleaded guilty to conspiring to violate the U.S. embargo against Iran and attempting to export prohibited goods that have dual civilian and military uses. The citizen of Taiwan also entered guilty pleas on behalf of his Landstar Tech Co. He was arrested in February in Guam in the midst of a transaction to ship to Iran some 8,500 glass-to-metal seals and 120 military-grade connectors. Commerce Department investigators said the suspect had arranged at least 30 banned shipments to Iran since 2007, falsely telling U.S.-based suppliers in Lakewood, New Jersey, Cincinnati, and elsewhere that the goods were destined for Hong Kong or Taiwan. The e-mails show he shipped two P200 Turbine engines and spare parts to Iran via Hong Kong in 2007, labeling them on an invoice as “a starter for a car and wheels.” The engines can be used in model aircraft but also for military drones.

Source: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gZ717fMuW51yLZIHWmgXUFOcDbLAD9FM1SS80](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gZ717fMuW51yLZIHWmgXUFOcDbLAD9FM1SS80)

For another story, see item **50**

22. *May 17, Zacks Equity Research* – (National) **U.S. bank failures inch to 72.** On May 14, four more banks were shuttered by U.S. regulators. The failed banks were based in Georgia, Illinois, Michigan and Missouri. This brings the total number of bank failures to 72 so far in 2010, compared to 140 in 2009, 25 in 2008 and 3 in 2007. Although the economy is showing signs of a gradual recovery with large financial institutions stabilizing, tumbling home prices, soaring loan defaults and a high unemployment rate continue to take their toll on small banks. While many expect the economic recovery to gain momentum soon, there remains lingering concern in the banking industry. Failure of both residential and commercial real estate loans as a result of the credit crisis has primarily hurt banks. As the industry tolerates bad loans made during the credit explosion, the trouble in the banking system goes even deeper, increasing the possibility of more bank failures.

The failed banks are: Saint Marys, Georgia-based Satilla Community Bank with total assets of $135.7 million and deposits of $134.0 million. Plymouth, Michigan-based New Liberty Bank with about $101.8 million in deposits and $109.1 million in assets. Springfield, Missouri-based Southwest Community Bank with about $102.5 million in deposits and $96.6 million in assets. Elmwood Park, Illinois-based Midwest Bank and Trust Company with total assets of $3.17 billion and deposits of $2.42 billion.

23. *May 15, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Man, 55, gets 20 years for Ponzi scheme.** A San Francisco tax preparer was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison May 14 for running a 30-year Ponzi scheme that cheated hundreds of investors out of more than $50 million. A district judge granted prosecutors’ request to impose the maximum sentence on the accused man, age 55. She scheduled a hearing July 29 on restitution for his victims, although it is not clear what percentage of their losses they will recover. The man’s lawyer said he used most of the money repaying investors while concealing his scheme from them. The suspect, who lived in San Mateo, owned Irving Bookkeeping and Taxes in the Sunset District. In pleading guilty to mail fraud in October, he admitted that between 1979 and June 2009, he fraudulently promised investors returns of as much as 13 percent on commercial loans. He used money from new investors to make interest payments to other clients, and spent the rest on casino gambling and speculative investments.

Source: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/14/BA2J1DF3PN.DTL&feed=rss.news](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/14/BA2J1DF3PN.DTL&feed=rss.news)

24. *May 15, 7th Space Interactive* – (California) **California man sentenced for role in $61-million Ponzi scheme.** An Orange County, California, resident has been sentenced to 121 months in federal prison for participating in a fraudulent investment scheme with an Orange County attorney that took in more than $61 million before it crashed and caused approximately 140 investors to suffer more than $20 million in losses. The accused man, age 63, of Tustin, was sentenced May 14. In addition to the prison term, the judge ordered the suspect to pay $14,525,993 in restitution. On September 28, 2009, the suspect pleaded guilty to wire fraud and mail fraud, admitting that he worked with an Irvine attorney to bilk victims who thought they were investing in public investments in private entities and money-market programs. He and the attorney promised returns of 25 percent to 35 percent every three to four months. In reality, the victims’ money was never invested. They instead used the money to make Ponzi payments to some investors, and to support their lavish lifestyles.

Source: [http://7thspace.com/headlines/344492/california_man_sentenced_for_role_in_61_million_ponzi_scheme.html](http://7thspace.com/headlines/344492/california_man_sentenced_for_role_in_61_million_ponzi_scheme.html)

25. *May 14, IDG News Service* – (International) **Ukrainian arrested in India on TJX data-theft charges.** A Ukrainian national has been arrested in India in connection with the most notorious hacking incident in U.S. history. He was one of 11 men charged in August 2008 with hacking into nine U.S. retailers and selling tens of millions of credit card numbers. He was arrested in India last week, according to a spokesman with India’s Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CBI said they had arrested him in New Delhi on the night of May 8, as he deplaned from a flight from Goa, for layover before a flight to Turkey. U.S. authorities had asked for his extradition via diplomatic channels. Known online as “Fidel,” the suspect allegedly sold credit card data on an online forum called DumpsMarket, but he was also active on other forums.

Transportation Sector

26. May 17, Associated Press – (Virginia) United Flight makes emergency landing in D.C. after fire in cockpit. A United Airlines flight from New York made an emergency landing outside Washington after a fire broke out in the plane’s cockpit, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said. The fire aboard the Boeing 757 was extinguished before the plane landed Sunday night and no injuries were reported, an FAA spokeswoman said. A United Airlines spokesman said the plane took off from New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport bound for Los Angeles and was diverted to Dulles International Airport, where it landed at 9:36 p.m. All 105 passengers and seven crew members got off safely, the spokesman said. He did not have any other details. The FAA spokeswoman said the agency was investigating the incident but to her knowledge, there was no criminal activity involved. A passenger told The Associated Press that about 30 minutes into the flight he detected an electrical burning smell. He said flight attendants began going over emergency instructions with passengers in the exit rows and someone brought up a fire extinguisher from the back of the plane to the cockpit. The plane landed within about 20 minutes, and a half dozen or more emergency vehicles met the aircraft in Virginia.

27. May 17, New York Times – (International) European airports begin to reopen. Heathrow and Gatwick airports began reopening Monday after a new cloud of ash from a volcano in Iceland prompted aviation authorities in Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands to close much of their airspace for several hours. A spokesman for Schiphol Airport said flights to and from Amsterdam’s main international airport would also resume from 2 p.m. local time, although major disruptions were expected to last throughout the day. Eurocontrol, the agency in Brussels charged with coordinating European air traffic management, said it expected roughly 1,000 flights would be canceled Monday out of around 29,000 that would normally take place this time of year. Winds were dispersing the cloud and reducing concentrations to levels that regulators and engine manufacturers have agreed are safe for commercial traffic. Eurocontrol said the densest parts of the cloud over Europe were at relatively low altitudes, which meant that while take-offs and landings were being disrupted, overflights of the affected areas were still possible. According to the Volcanic Ash Advisory Center in London, the ash plume from Iceland’s Eyjafjallajokull volcano was so far remaining below 29,000 feet, while the standard cruising altitude for aircraft is 32,000 to 35,000 feet. Airspace over London Heathrow was closed from 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. Monday. The restriction also included Gatwick and London City Airports and all airfields in Northern Ireland and parts of Scotland. Amsterdam and Rotterdam airports were also shuttered as of 6 a.m. The shutdowns came a month after an ash cloud disrupted most air travel in Europe for nearly a week, forcing the cancellation of thousands of flights, stranding passengers, damaging the continent’s economy and raising questions about the oversight of Europe’s air traffic.
28. **May 17, Wichita Eagle – (Kansas)** Airport seeks controls for wildlife as bird strikes rise. As the number of airplanes striking birds climbs in Wichita, Kansas and many cities nationwide, officials at Wichita Mid-Continent Airport are exploring ways to manage wildlife beyond the airport’s property. That could include things like chasing birds off public land, changing the shape of future retention ponds, and recommending what types of vegetation grow around them. “We think we’re doing a very good and effective job of wildlife management on our property,” said Mid-Continent’s assistant airport director. “The problem is, it’s about the population and it’s about what’s going on around our properties.” Airport officials will discuss those ideas with City Council members at a workshop at 9:30 a.m. May 25 at city hall. The number of bird strikes is increasing as large bird populations grow and airports become more diligent about reporting strikes. Until recently, most animal strikes were not reported in Wichita or across the nation. Wichita’s airport logged a record-setting 34 bird strikes last year. It has recorded six so far this year. The numbers include commercial, cargo and private flights. Of the 238 wildlife strikes at Mid-Continent between 1990 and 2009, 13 led to precautionary landings and two led to aborted take-offs. No injuries were reported. Source: [http://www.kansas.com/2010/05/17/1316907/airport-seeks-controls-for-wildlife.html](http://www.kansas.com/2010/05/17/1316907/airport-seeks-controls-for-wildlife.html)

29. **May 16, KFOR 4 Miami – (Florida)** Bomb threat to Liberty Of The Seas a hoax. A scare on the high seas occurred after someone called Royal Caribbean Cruise Line and told them a bomb had been planted on one of their ships. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, someone called the company’s reservation center in Wichita, Kansas around 5 p.m. Saturday and claimed there were explosives on the Liberty of the Seas. The ships security personnel and staff conducted interior security sweeps of the vessel but did not find anything. The ship continued ist journey and docked in the Port of Miami Sunday around 6 a.m. FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection agents conducted a pier-side boarding of the vessel and no explosive material was found. The Liberty of the Seas has been permitted to resume operations. The FBI is investigating the incident. Source: [http://cbs4.com/local/royal.caribbean.liberty.2.1697266.html](http://cbs4.com/local/royal.caribbean.liberty.2.1697266.html)

30. **May 15, Associated Press – (International)** Fighter jets escort plane to Vancouver. Canadian fighter jets escorted a Cathay Pacific airliner coming from Hong Kong to a safe landing in Vancouver International Airport May 15 following a bomb threat, officials said. Royal Canadian Mounted Police said that passengers had been safely taken off the plane and that nothing of concern had been found in the baggage. “This incident is being taken very seriously,” a police spokeswoman said. Canadian F-18 Hornet fighter jets intercepted the Airbus A340 with 283 passengers and 14 crew members aboard and flew alongside it until it landed. “As a precaution, NORAD fighters escorted the aircraft until it landed safely in Vancouver,” said North American Aerospace Defense Command spokeswoman. Passengers told CTV News they were not informed of any problems during the flight. One passenger told CTV News the
fighters appeared about 80 miles from Vancouver. “I was scared,” he said. “He was near to our plane, very near to our plane.”
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/05/15/world/AP-CN-Canada-Plane-Threat.html?_r=1&partner=rss&emc=rss

31. May 15, Associated Press – (New Jersey) Authority says suspicious package investigated, posed no danger. Authorities said a suspicious package found underneath a railroad trestle near the new Red Bulls Stadium in New Jersey posed no danger. A spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said the station was closed for 60 to 90 minutes Saturday evening while authorities investigated. He said the package was judged not to be a danger, and train service to the station resumed. A soccer game at the stadium was not affected by the investigation, although a road leading up to the stadium was blocked and hundreds of people were kept out of the facility until authorities said it was OK to reopen the road.

32. May 14, Associated Press – (Connecticut) Airport finds suspicious package. Tweed New Haven Regional Airport in Connecticut has reopened while authorities take a suspicious package to another site for more tests. The small airport had been shut and the passenger terminal evacuated after an officer reported the package about 11:30 a.m. Friday. A police spokesman said the airport reopened around 2:30 p.m. He said the package, found in the entrance to the airport, resembled a small safe but X-rays could not see inside it. He said the package would be taken to an undisclosed site for more tests.

33. May 13, Federal Bureau of Investigation – (Texas) Airline contract employee who worked at Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport arrested for threatening to put a bomb on plane. A contract employee who worked at Preston Smith International Airport in Lubbock, Texas was arrested by FBI agents May 12 at his residence in Lubbock County on charges in a federal indictment alleging offenses related to his threat to bomb an airplane. The suspect cleaned airplanes for one of the airlines operating out of the airport. The indictment alleges that on April 1, 2010, he conveyed false information, which he knew was false, that he intended to place a destructive device on an airplane when he posted a “channel comment” on YouTubeService stating: “I’m building a bomb as you speak. I work at the airport as a Technician. I go inspect planes and get paid $20 an Hour. You think you won. Well I got plans for implanting a 10 hour bomb in one of the vents.” He is charged with one count of imparting and conveying false information regarding the destruction of an aircraft, one count of making a bomb threat, and one count of false information and hoaxes.
Source: http://dallas.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel10/dl051310a.htm

For more stories, see items 6, 14, and 60
Postal and Shipping Sector

See item 17

Agriculture and Food Sector

34. May 17, Associated Press – (New Jersey) **Jersey City police foil pizzeria bomb plot.** Police in Jersey City, New Jersey, have foiled a bomb plot that might have been the result of a landlord-tenant dispute. The deputy police chief said the primitive bomb, consisting of a gas can with a wire attached to it, was found inside a vacant pizzeria on the ground floor of a three-story building May 17. Police are focusing on a man who once rented the pizzeria and may have had a legal dispute with the building’s owner. Police and fire units had responded to the building for a report of a gas leak and found the would-be bomb set to go off if the front door was opened. The police chief said investigators are interviewing two suspects and may announce arrests later in the day. Source: [Link](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hsRaFdpWXOCLYINLdmV9U73Ws2jgD9FOMI980)

35. May 15, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service – (California) **California firm recalls ground-beef products due to possible E. coli contamination.** Montclair Meat Co., Inc., a Montclair, California, firm, is recalling approximately 53,000 pounds of ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced May 15. The recall covers various pound packages of “Montclair Meat Co. Ground Beef” and “Montclair Meat Co. All Beef Patties.” Each package bears establishment number “Est. 6116” inside the USDA mark of inspection. These ground-beef products were produced between the dates of May 3 through May 13, 2010 and were shipped to retailers and federal establishments for further processing in the Los Angeles, California, metropolitan area. The problem was discovered through FSIS microbiological sampling. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of these products. Source: [Link](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_034_2010_Release/index.asp)

36. May 15, Associated Press – (Utah) **Utah unpasteurized milk contained Salmonella.** Several Utah state and county agencies said samples of unpasteurized milk show it contained Salmonella when six people fell ill in Utah, Salt Lake, and Wasatch counties. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Utah Department of Health and Utah County Health Department announced their findings May 14. The sale of unpasteurized, or raw, milk was suspended at stores supplied by the dairy April 23. Testing done on new milk has shown the product meets standards set by Utah law. The
dairy was allowed to resume sales May 12. The department of agriculture’s director of regulatory services said the agency is working with the dairy to identify the source of the salmonella.

37. **May 14, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service** – (International) **Illinois firm recalls imported beef products due to potential animal-drug contaminant.** Chicago-based Sampco, Inc. is recalling approximately 87,000 pounds of beef products that may contain the animal drug Ivermectin, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced May 14. Ivermectin is a broad-spectrum antiparasitic and is used as a de-worming agent in live animals. The recall involves 12 oz. cans of “Libby’s Corned Beef” distributed to retail locations nationwide and 35 lb. boxes of “Seasoned Cooked Beef” distributed to an establishment for further processing. Each product package bears “BRASIL 337 S.I.F” on either the top or the side, as well as “Product of Brazil” or “Packed under Brazilian Government Inspection.” The problem was discovered through FSIS routine sampling. Since March 15, 2010, samples from cooked beef products imported from Brazil establishment SIF 337 have resulted in 12 instances of the level of Ivermectin found in the product exceeding the tolerance level established by the Department of Health and Human Service’s Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of 10 parts per billion in beef muscle. The production lots that produced violative results were refused entry into the U.S. and are not available in commerce. However, it was discovered associated products with similar source materials entered the country separately. These are the products that were released into commerce and therefore subject to the recall. The Brazilian firm SIF 337 has been delisted and beef products from that establishment are not permitted entry to the U.S. FSIS is taking additional actions regarding other lots of cooked beef products from Brazil establishment SIF 337 and other manufacturers of cooked beef products from Brazil. FSIS and the company have received no reports of illness or adverse reactions due to consumption of these products.

**Water Sector**

38. **May 17, Franklin News Post** – (Virginia) **Ferrum sewer plant issued $2,200 fine.** The Ferrum Water and Sewage Authority (FWSA) in Virginia has been levied a fine of $2,200 for water it has periodically released into Storey Creek from its wastewater treatment plant. The water had zinc and nickel concentrations that exceeded levels set by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). A DEQ enforcement specialist said the problem appears to have originated from one of FWSA’s water supply wells that had a high concentration of the metals. Because of the small size of the water and wastewater treatment operation, the technology needed to meet levels of zinc and nickel set by the permit under which it operates is not economically feasible. While the level of the metals have exceeded the standards, the water from the well does
not exceed health department standards for drinking water. The water plant filter is periodically backwashed, and that backwash water is dumped into the wastewater facility and then released into Storey Creek. “One possibility might be to treat the backwash from the water plant filter before it enters the wastewater treatment facility and is then dumped into the creek,” the DEQ specialist said. The problem may require some studies to find a way to obtain better data concerning metal levels allowable under FWSSA’s permit to operate, he added. The fine levied will not be paid until after a public notice period and approval of the fine by the state water control board. The DEQ has also levied a fine of $3,500 against the Western Virginia Water Authority because a water treatment plant it operates in Bedford County discharged too much copper into Falling Creek. There was no documented environmental harm to Storey Creek in Ferrum or Falling Creek in Bedford County.

Source: http://www.thefranklinnewspost.com/article.cfm?ID=16275

39. **May 17, San Francisco Chronicle – (California)** State’s nitrates problem grows unchecked. The water supply of more than 2 million Californians has been exposed to harmful levels of nitrates over the past 15 years, a period marked by lax regulatory efforts to contain the colorless and odorless contaminant, a California Watch investigation has found. Nitrates are the most common groundwater contaminant in California and across the nation. A byproduct of nitrogen-based farm fertilizer, animal manure, wastewater treatment plants and leaky septic tanks, nitrates seep into the ground and can be expensive to extract. The problem affects rural Californians and wealthier big-city water systems. State law requires public water systems to remove nitrates. But many rural communities do not have access to the type of treatment systems available in metropolitan areas. Statewide, the number of wells that exceeded the health limit for nitrates jumped from nine in 1980 to 648 by 2007. Scientists anticipate a growing wave of nitrate problems in some parts of the state if remedial steps are not taken.

Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/17/MNLC1DCRMF.DTL&feed=rss.news

40. **May 16, KSL 5 Salt Lake City – (Utah)** More illness reported in Saratoga Springs. The city of Saratoga Springs has lifted an order to boil drinking water, which was put into place upon the discovery of a bacterial outbreak. But even though officials say the water is safe, more people are coming forward to say they are getting sick. The Utah County Health Department has not yet discovered the source of a bacterial contamination in the water that made seven people sick. The boil order went into effect May 13, and city officials said it affected 7,000 to 8,000 people. The evening of May 15, health and city officials told residents they had flushed the system with chlorine and the water was safe to drink again. They said they found no bacteria in the water. However, officials are still trying to pin down the exact source. One possibility is that water left in the pipes during the winter became stagnant and contaminated. According to people in the Harvest Hills neighborhood, the local Smith’s and Walmart are selling out of bottled water because people refuse to drink from the tap.

Source: http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=10798661
41. **May 15, KUSA 9 Denver** – (Colorado) **State won’t penalize Metro Wastewater for sewage spill.** The spill, described as “major” by the plant operator, had minimal impact on the environment and posed no threat to public health, according to state regulators. A spokesman for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said May 14 that the state would not be taking an enforcement action against the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District. Heavy rains were blamed for the March 23 spill that sent 790,000 gallons of raw sewage into the South Platte River, according to a district spokesman. An additional 1.2 million gallons spilled at the plant but were recovered before they entered the river. Metro Wastewater described the incident as a “perfect storm” where a deluge of water forced debris in the sewer system to clog an intake point at the Commerce City plant. A capital project about to go out to bid will construct a bypass to avoid a similar problem. On March 23, downstream water users were warned as crews routed water around the clog as it was cleared. Metro Wastewater said the Environmental Protection Agency was also notified.


42. **May 14, Wisconsin State Journal** – (Wisconsin) **Welders sparked fire in water tower that prompted evacuation.** Workers welding the inside of an empty water tower on the southwest side of Madison, Wisconsin sparked a fire May 14 that caused nearby residents to be evacuated from their homes for more than an hour. A Madison utility manager said the company the city hired to paint the tower, Central Tank Coatings, Inc., of Elgin, Iowa, was doing prep work inside the 100,000-gallon tower when the insulation around telephone and other communications cables caught fire. The owner of Central Tank Coatings, confirmed workers were welding inside the tower, and sparks ignited the cables. Initial concern that the tower at the intersection of Prairie Road and Walden Way would collapse prompted evacuation of nearby homes as the Madison Fire Department used a hose and ladder to spray water on the stem of the water tower, said a fire department spokesman. The fire burned for about 40 minutes before it was put out. Damage to the cables and paint on the tower is estimated at $400,000. The Huegel Elementary School principal said parents were notified and urged to pick up their children from school. Buses were rerouted around the area. A nearby 4-million-gallon reservoir tank was not threatened. One worker was treated for smoke inhalation and taken to UW Hospital with minor injuries. Central Tank Coatings started the project by emptying the tank about 30 days ago, and the contractors were expected to finish around June 5. An official said the evacuation of area homes was precautionary. A structural engineer was scheduled to inspect the tower May 17 to determine if repairs were necessary.


For another story, see item **16**
43. *May 17, IT Business Edge –* (Texas) **Security gaurd enters guilty plea for hacking employer’s computers.** According to Computerworld, a former security guard has pleaded guilty to two counts of transmitting malicious code for hacking into his employer’s computers while working the night shift at a Dallas hospital. It wasn’t hard to find the 25-year-old hacker, who goes by the name Ghost Exodus, as he posted videos of his misadventures to YouTube. Apparently, he is a member of a hacking group known as the Electronik Tribulation Army and he installed the botnet code in an effort to take down a rival group’s Web site. Each count carries a 10-year prison sentence. The man is scheduled to be sentenced September 16.

44. *May 14, Reuters –* (National) **FDA: Glaxo, Merck vaccines OK despite pig virus.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in a statement, said it was safe for doctors to resume giving patients Glaxo’s Rotarix and continue using Merck’s Rotateq. The agency said there was no evidence that contamination caused any harm and the vaccines were important in preventing hospitalizations and death. Rotavirus can cause fatal diarrhea. Both vaccines target the virus, but pieces of DNA from porcine circovirus (PCV) have been found in both companies’ products. The FDA’s decision follows a May 7 recommendation by its advisory panel, which ruled that the risk to humans from the pig virus was theoretical at best. It called for continued use of the vaccines, saying their benefits outweighed any potential risk.
Source: [http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64D58I20100514](http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64D58I20100514)

45. *May 13, DVM News magazine –* (Wisconsin) **UW professor banned from laboratory for unauthorized brucellosis research.** A 32-year veteran of high-risk research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine has been suspended from working on any projects above Level 1 biosecurity clearance after unauthorized experiments on an antibiotic-resistant strain of brucellosis were discovered. The suspension of the man’s laboratory privileges followed a $40,000 fine against the university for not properly training faculty, staff and students on new federal regulations governing research. UW-Madison’s associate dean for research policy and the school’s responsible officer for its select agent program, said the man claimed to not know the research in question was being conducted in his lab — despite evidence of the contrary contained in e-mails to a graduate student conducting the experiments.

46. *May 13, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency –* (National) **Pharmaceutical companies provide EPA 100 drugs to help predict toxicity.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will continue validating its ToxCast screening tool by screening more than 100 drugs provided by Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Sanofi-Aventis, and Merck. These drugs never entered the marketplace because they demonstrated different types and levels of toxicity when the pharmaceutical companies conducted the early stage clinical trials required by the Food and Drug Administration as part of the
drug development process. EPA researchers will quickly screen the drugs and then compare those results with the clinical trial results. Assessment of the similarities and differences in the results will improve EPA’s ability to screen chemicals for toxicity. Because of the high cost and the long process of conducting chemical testing, only a small fraction of the thousands of available chemicals have been assessed for potential human health risk. EPA is using its ToxCast screening tool to help efficiently understand how chemicals may impact processes in the human body that could lead to adverse health effects. Currently, ToxCast includes 500 automated chemical screening tests that have assessed more than 300 environmental chemicals.

Source: [http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/90AAA37054ECBA04852577220054CBD8](http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/90AAA37054ECBA04852577220054CBD8)

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**Government Facilities Sector**

47. *May 17, Associated Press* – (International) **Japanese encircle U.S. base in protest.** Thousands of Japanese linked hands and encircled a Marine Corps base in Okinawa on Sunday to protest its presence on the island, putting more pressure on Tokyo to resolve an impasse over the base’s future. About 17,000 residents surrounded the Futenma air base early in the afternoon, chanting slogans and completing a human chain twice for several minutes each time, a city official said. The base covers about 1.9 square miles and sits in the middle of Ginowan, a city of about 93,000. Locals from Japan’s southern Okinawa Island are growing increasingly vocal against the presence of the U.S. military. Residents have long said they must deal with constant noise created by military aircraft and increased crime from U.S. troops in the area. An agreement to move the base to a less populated part of the island was made in 1996, but the Japanese prime minister said he wanted to rework that deal when he came to power last year. Despite campaign pledges to relocate the base, he has repeatedly extended his deadline to present a solution, and he faces heavy criticism on the issue both at home and abroad. The Japanese prime minister, who will reportedly meet with the U.S. Secretary of State this week, vowed Monday to do all he can to resolve an impasse over the future of the major American Marine base by the end of the month.


48. *May 14, New York Times* – (International) **U.S. embassy shuts down as Bangkok violence worsens.** As clashes between protesters and the Thai military have escalated in a central area of Bangkok, Thailand, the U.S. embassy, located near the protest area, has shut down, at least until Monday. Since April 28, when it issued a travel alert, the State Department has advised U.S. citizens to avoid all non-essential travel to Thailand; some hotels in the capital city have urged guests to relocate. In addition, the United States government said on Saturday that it was offering a voluntary evacuation of non-essential personnel from Bangkok and advised against all travel to the city, as violence has continued to worsen in the Thai capital.
49. May 14, Associated Press – (California) Marine sentenced for passing secrets. A Camp Pendleton Marine officer who leaked intelligence documents to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has been sentenced to 90 days in confinement. The Marine officer also was sentenced Thursday to a reprimand and ordered to forfeit $6,000 in pay. He pleaded guilty in a military trial to dereliction of duty and conduct unbecoming an officer. The officer and four others were accused of passing secret information to a sheriff’s anti-terrorism unit between 2003 and 2004. Court testimony said some of the material came from the CIA. A colonel is awaiting trial in the case, while three lower-ranking Marines either pleaded guilty or were convicted. Source: http://www.military.com/news/article/marine-sentenced-for-passing-secrets.html?ESRC=topstories.RSS

50. May 14, Associated Press – (National) Aging jets concern retiring NORAD chief. A four-star general who is retiring from the military’s top homeland security position said Thursday the nation’s radar system needs to be replaced and its jet fighter fleet is getting old. “The aging systems that we use for many of our NORAD missions is a concern for me,” said the Air Force general who was the commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and the U.S. Northern Command. NORAD is a joint U.S.-Canada command that monitors air and space threats to both nations. Northern Command oversees the U.S. military’s homeland defense and supports civilian authorities. Both have headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. At a news conference Thursday, the general said he feels good about the direction of the two commands and is leaving behind “no unfinished business.” But the general said the nation’s current radar system needs to be updated with an integrated system of sensors that can seamlessly monitor space, maritime areas and U.S. border areas, as well as the air. “The answer isn’t just ‘fix radar sites,’ “ the general said. The general also warned that “our air defense alert fighters are aging,” a reference to the current fleet of F-16 jets that are sent aloft during potential aerial threats, including disturbances aboard domestic airliners. Many older-model F-16s are flying well past their designed life span after undergoing upgrades. Source: http://www.military.com/news/article/aging-jets-concern-retiring-norad-chief.html?ESRC=topstories.RSS

For another story, see item 62
Childcare Center were among the buildings evacuated. Second Street School and Frankfort Middle School weren’t vacated, but students weren’t allowed outside, police said. Someone phoned in the bomb threat to police dispatch around 9 a.m. Monday. Source: [http://www.state-journal.com/news/article/4828458](http://www.state-journal.com/news/article/4828458)

52. May 14, WKZO 590 Kalamazoo – (Michigan) **Police under investigation.** The Muskegon Heights Michigan Police Department is under investigation for its sloppy handling of evidence, some of which may be missing. The acting police chief has asked state troopers to do an independent audit of their evidence locker because it appears some money has disappeared. The prosecutor said the evidence room is a shambles with poor organization and poor recordkeeping. He said unlike most departments that destroy drugs and remove cash when cases are prosecuted, in Muskegon Heights it was left lying around. The interim chief requested the audit and then resigned. Source: [http://www.wtvbam.com/news/articles/2010/may/13/police-under-investigation/](http://www.wtvbam.com/news/articles/2010/may/13/police-under-investigation/)

53. May 17, SC Magazine – (International) **Remaining Facebook users warned about ‘sexiest video’.** Websense claimed that new malware is making its way across Facebook in messages that purport to contain ‘the sexiest video ever’. When a user clicks on the ‘video’ they are taken to an application installation screen asking them to allow it to access their profile. Once approved, it claims they have to download an updated FLV Player to view the video and promptly sends an EXE to the user. It detected this as the Hotbar Adware that displays ads in one’s browser based on browsing habits, etc. In addition, the Facebook application will post messages on a browsers’ friends wall on the browser’s behalf with the same ‘sexiest video ever’ message. The message has what appears to be a movie thumbnail of a woman on a bicycle wearing a short skirt, and the video’s length is given as 3:17. Source: [http://www.scmagazineuk.com/remaining-facebook-users-warned-about-sexiest-video/article/170322/](http://www.scmagazineuk.com/remaining-facebook-users-warned-about-sexiest-video/article/170322/)

54. May 16, eWeek – (International) **Google Street View accidentally collected user data via WiFi.** Google May 14 said it will no longer collect WiFi data after discovering that its Street View cars unwittingly collected personal information from citizens’ networks, a violation of privacy sure to inflame leaders of countries already wary of Google’s data-collection practices. The search engine initially said in April that its Street View cars did not collect data that people share between WiFi networks and computers, although the cars did collect WiFi network names and router addresses. Google learned after conducting a data audit on behalf of the German government that this was incorrect. “It’s now clear that we have been mistakenly collecting samples of payload data from open (i.e. non-password-protected) WiFi networks, even though we never used that data in any Google products,” wrote a senior vice president of engineering and research. Payload data can include user e-mails, passwords and Web browsing.
activity, data the sanctity of which Internet companies such as Google, Yahoo and Microsoft swear to protect. Germany, the United States, Britain and France were among the countries where Google collected this data.

55. *May 14, DarkReading* – (International) **BSA: $51 billion in unlicensed software exacerbates malware problem.** The Business Software Alliance (BSA), which represents the commercial software industry and spearheads the effort to stop the spread of unlicensed applications, estimates in its Global Piracy Study 2010 that some $51.4 billion of unlicensed software was distributed in 2009. Aside from the cost to the software industry, the report said the high rate of piracy may be contributing to the spread of malware. The report makes reference to a previous study by International Data Corporation, which revealed that “one in four websites that offered pirated software or counterfeit activation keys attempted to install infectious computer code, like Trojan horses and key loggers, on test computers. Even more striking, 59 percent of the counterfeit software or key generators downloaded from peer-to-peer (P2P) sites contained malicious or unwanted code.” The study also found the cost of recovery from a security incident resulting from pirated software on a PC can cost more than $1,000, often exceeding the cost of legitimate software.

56. *May 13, Homeland Security NewsWire* – (National) **Cybersecurity summit pays little attention to control system’s security.** Despite threats of infrastructure attacks, scant attention was paid to control systems during a global security conference. As online attacks increase in severity and reach, targeting everyone from Google to the Pentagon, leading security experts and government officials met last week in Dallas at the EastWest Institute’s first annual Cybersecurity Summit. The goal of the conference was to find common solutions to cybercrime and other online attacks, which respect no national boundaries. However, according to an InformationWeek’s reporter, a major issue — for a meeting intended to find global solutions to information security challenges — is the fact that safeguarding control systems against attackers requires a different approach to securing PCs or networks. Windows-based security products will not help. “All the devices that sense things — temperature, pressure, flow, and things like that — are not Windows, those are proprietary, real-time or embedded, and there is no security there.” Furthermore, seemingly rote IT activities, like installing antivirus on a control system, can actually create a denial of service. “Who needs hackers?” he said.

For another story, see item 57
Communications Sector

57. May 17, The New New Internet – (International) Crime friendly ISP offline. A cyber crime friendly Internet service provider (ISP) was knocked offline Friday after its upstream provider had its service cut off, according to Zeus Tracker. PROXIEZ-NET, a Russian based ISP that hosted at least 13 known Zeus command and control channels, lost its connection after its upstream provider, DIGERNET, had its Internet connection cut. It was withdrawn from Internet routing tables, according to an AS Report. PROXIEZ-NET has often been accused of being a haven for cyber criminals. It is unclear how this will impact the botnets that utilize PROXIEZ-NET, as previously disrupted servers have merely found new hosts to reconnect with the infected computers they control.

58. May 17, Research – (National) One in four U.S. homes now cell-only. One in four U.S. homes is now cellphone-only, according to figures for the second half of 2009. A further 14.9 percent of homes receive all or almost all calls on mobiles, despite having a landline, meaning that 89 million U.S. adults (nearly two in five) are now cell-only or ‘cell-mostly’. “The potential for bias due to undercoverage remains a real and growing threat to surveys conducted only on landline telephones,” said the latest report from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which conducts continuous research on health-related behaviors, as well as landline and cellphone usage. Many research organizations are beginning to sample cell-only homes alongside landlines, or to use address-based sampling for telephone fieldwork. The number of cell-only homes has risen steadily from less than 3 percent when NCHS first started collecting the data in 2003. The latest figure shows a rise of 4.3 percentage points from the same period in 2008, roughly the same rate at which it rose in the 12 months before that.
Source: http://www.research-live.com/news/one-in-four-us-homes-now-cell-only/4002704.article

For another story, see item 42
59. May 17, Agence France-Presse – (International) Al Qaeda in Iraq was planning attack on World Cup. A senior member of Al Qaeda in Iraq who was arrested two weeks ago had been planning an attack against the football World Cup in South Africa next month. A 30-year-old Saudi, “participated in the planning of a terrorist act in South Africa during the World Cup,” said a Baghdad security spokesman. He added that the suspect was in charge of “security” for the terror network in Baghdad, and was in contact with a terrorist leader to organize the plan hatched by Al Qaeda.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/warzone/2010/05/al-qaeda-in-iraq-was-planning.html#ixzz0oCT123ot

60. May 14, Associated Press – (National) Parking attendants trained to watch for terrorists. A new government program aims to train thousands of parking industry employees nationwide to watch for and report anything suspicious. Organizers said parking attendants and enforcement officers are as important to thwarting attacks as the two Times Square street vendors who alerted police to a smoking SUV that was found to contain a gasoline-and-propane bomb. The program has been in the works for about a year and gave its first presentation at the convention, attended by hundreds of people who run parking operations for cities, universities, stadiums and other places around the country. Funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and administered by TSA, the program teaches parking-lot operators to watch for odd activities that could precede an attack by days or months: strange odors such as diesel from gasoline vehicles, cars parked where they shouldn’t be, people who seem to be conducting surveillance by taking photos or drawing sketches. The program is part of a larger effort by the government since 9/11 to enlist ordinary people — airline passengers, subway riders, bus drivers, truckers, doormen, building superintendents — to serve as the eyes and ears of law enforcement. The executive director of corporate security for MGM Mirage, which owns all or part of 11 casino-resorts on the Las Vegas Strip, said all new hires, including parking valets, housekeepers, and casino cashiers, are trained to watch for signs of terrorism.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100514/ap_on_bi_ge/us_parking_lots_terrorism

61. May 14, BBC – (International) Iraq football stadium hit by deadly suicide bombing. A suicide bombing at a football stadium in northern Iraq has killed 10 people and injured 120 others. An attacker detonated explosives hidden inside a vehicle at the entrance to the stadium in Tal Afar, a mainly Shia Turkmen town west of Mosul. Witnesses said the blast was followed by at least one other. Some of them said up to three suicide bombers were involved. No group has yet said it carried out the bombings in Tal Afar, but correspondents said the method was similar to past al-Qaeda attacks and the group remains active in the area.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8683642.stm

62. May 14, WTOP.com – (District of Columbia) Surprise drill targets D.C.-area terrorists. On May 11, a dozen SUVs emblazoned with the Department of Homeland Security logo rumbled out of a parking garage in Southeast D.C. and sped through the city, lights flashing and sirens blaring. The convoy was headed to the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center downtown. Their goal, in part, was to disrupt
terrorist surveillance operations. Since the attempt to bomb Times Square on May 1, federal, state and local authorities have been warned to remain vigilant. “Washington is still a target for terrorists,” a federal law enforcement official says. “Especially after the Times Square situation, there is a concern about something happening here.” While authorities say there is no intelligence to suggest an attack is imminent, the Federal Protective Service conducted its “Operation Shield” drill on May 11 to keep its skills sharp and potential terrorists guessing. A Federal Protective Service spokesman says it is an effort to avert or obstruct potential insider threats as part of terrorist operations and criminal activity in and around federal facilities.

Source: http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1956810

63. May 13, United States Department of Justice – (Massachusetts) Two men charged with additional counts for the racially motivated arson of a Massachusetts church. A federal grand jury in the district of Massachusetts has charged two men in a three-count superseding indictment in relation to the arson of a church. The superseding indictment alleges that in the early morning of Nov. 5, 2008, within hours of the U.S. President being elected, the two men agreed to burn and succeeded in burning the Macedonia Church of God in Christ, a predominantly African-American church in Springfield, Massachusetts. The building was 75 percent completed at the time of the fire, which destroyed the entire structure leaving only the metal superstructure and a small portion of the front corner intact. Investigators determined the fire to be incendiary in nature and caused by an unknown quantity of gasoline applied to the exterior and interior of the building. Some of the responding firefighters suffered injuries as they worked to extinguish the blaze. The men were originally charged on Jan. 27, 2009, with conspiring to interfere with the civil rights of the parishioners of the church. The superseding indictment’s two additional counts allege the suspects’ damaged religious property because of the race, color or ethnic characteristics of individuals associated with that religious property, and used fire to commit a felony.


National Monuments and Icons Sector

64. May 17, Santa Maria Times – (California) Cotton Fire 85 percent contained. A wildfire north of New Cuyama, California continues to burn, but about 350 firefighters had built a containment line around 85 percent of its perimeter by Sunday night. The blaze, known as the Cotton Fire, ignited about 9:15 a.m. Saturday along Highway 166 near Cottonwood Canyon Road, about 40 miles east of Santa Maria. It spread west, blackening half a mile of vegetation along the north side of the highway until about noon Saturday, when wind pushed the flames northeast over the hills and into the Carrizo Plain National Monument, which is under Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction. After blackening 1,500 acres Saturday, the fire grew to 1,800 by Sunday morning, and was held at that acreage throughout the day. No one had been injured and no structures had been lost by 8 p.m. Sunday, said a public information officer. Firefighters needed to build just half a mile of additional line to achieve full
containment. The cause of the Cotton Fire has not been determined and remains under investigation.
Source: http://www.santamariatimes.com/news/local/article_3c6fe3f4-6170-11df-8ccb-001cc4c002e0.html

Dams Sector

65. May 17, Express Tribune – (International) **Spillway in Attabad Lake complete to ease pressure.** Work to build a spillway in the Attabad, Pakistan ‘landslide’ lake was stopped May 16, after authorities said that the target of a 30-meter deep cut has been achieved. “As against our initial target of cutting the debris down to 18 meters, we decided to cut it down to 30 meters as the inflow of water was slow,” said a senior government official in Pakistan. He added that the water is expected to overflow the banks of the dam by the end of the month. The lake now covers an area of 17 kilometres, leaving 25,000 people stranded. The water level has reached alarming levels of 353 feet owing to the rapid meltdown of glacier in the last two days. The evacuation of vulnerable people from downstream villages will be completed by the 20th of this month. He said that people are being mentally prepared to move to safer places in time to avoid any catastrophe. Boat service has not been stopped yet, but a decision to this effect will be taken in a few days. Chinese and Frontier Works Organization [FWO] engineers began cutting the 196,000 cubic meter-high debris from the Attabad Dam in early January after a massive landslide blocked the once fast flowing Hunza River at Attabad, creating a lake that submerged at least three villages as it expended. At least 19 people were killed in the landslide that also swept away a major portion of Karakoram Highway that links Pakistan with China. Officials said that more than 20 villages have been vacated and their residents have been moved to safer places. According to experts, more than 36 villages downstream may come under water if the dam breaks its banks. In addition, more than 13,000 people may be displaced. Officials said that the army has been assisting the evacuation of communities living on both sides of the Hunza River in Gilgit and Hunza and Nagar districts. Three upstream villages — Ayeenabad, Shishkat and many commercial areas in Gulmit town — have been flooded while a major portion of the Karakoram Highway has also submerged. Some experts fear that debris from mountains on each side of the spillway could again close the lake’s passage.

66. May 17, Canton Reporter – (Ohio) **Dover Dam, others ready for major rehab project.** Later this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will embark on a rehabilitation program to upgrade four regional dams and a levee in the Muskingum Basin, which covers 8,000 square miles in Stark, Tuscarawas, Carroll and 15 other counties in Ohio. The projects include the Dover, Beach City, Bolivar and Mohawk dams and the Zoar levee. “There will be greater flood-damage reduction, both in human life risk and property damage,” explained the project manager for the Army Corps of
Engineers. The Corps estimates the five projects will cost between $630 million and $685 million, mostly funded by federal dollars with a local share. Property owners within the Muskingum River Watershed will pay $125 million to $137 million into the construction work. Bolivar Dam work is scheduled to begin in 2012. Work on the other two dams and Zoar levee — still in design phase — should follow.
Source: http://www.cantonrep.com/carousel/x2084246794/Dover-Dam-others-ready-for-major-rehab-project

May 14, Associated Press – (Louisiana) La. guardsmen make beach ‘levee’ as oil protection. A Louisiana National Guard company from Oak Grove has set up almost a mile of big water-filled tubes as a second line of defense against the advancing oil spill. The 1023rd Vertical Engineer Company, 528th Engineer Battalion is working about 275 miles from home. A staff sergeant said the battalion is creating a 7.1-mile barrier across a beach in Southwest Pass at the mouth of the Mississippi River. The system usually replaces sandbags for flood control. At Southwest Pass, it is aimed at stopping oil that gets past the boom line, so it will not get into delicate marshes. The 922nd Horizontal Engineer Company, 769th Engineer Battalion, has completed work to fill in a gap more than 800 feet long and about 80 feet wide which otherwise might let oil into marshes on the back side of Elmer’s Island, near Grand Isle. That is also a coastal reclamation project.
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