



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 August 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to Communications News, business travelers are losing more than 12,000 laptops per week at U.S. airports; only one-third of those are reclaimed. A study by the Ponemon Institute said that workforce mobility is putting companies at risk of having a data breach if a laptop containing sensitive information is lost or stolen. (See item [11](#))
- The Associated Press reports that New Orleans drew up evacuation plans as forecasters warned that Gustav could strengthen and slam into the Gulf Coast as a major hurricane. Since Katrina, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has spent billions of dollars to improve the levee system, but because of two quiet hurricane seasons, the flood walls have never been tested. (See item [38](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

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. *August 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Oil fluctuates as Gustav bears down on Gulf.** Oil prices fluctuated sharply Thursday as Tropical Storm Gustav spun toward the Gulf of Mexico, with some traders fearing a disruption in supplies and others betting that the government would tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve if needed. Either way, consumers were likely to see a hike in gas prices for Labor Day weekend. Gustav, approaching Jamaica with winds near 70 mph, could regain hurricane strength later Thursday and possibly enter the Gulf as a dangerous Category 3 storm early next week,

forecasters said. The storm not only threatens the more than 4,000 oil and gas rigs scattered throughout the Gulf, but also the dozens of oil refineries dotting the vulnerable coastline from Texas to Louisiana. “If it goes anywhere near refineries, that’s going to knock out production for about a week,” said the chief analyst at the Oil Price Information Service. The exodus from the Gulf by oil workers accelerated. Royal Dutch Shell PLC has evacuated nearly 400 people and said it will bring in another 270 Thursday. The company said production will be impacted. BP PLC was also removing personnel from the region that is home to about a quarter of U.S. crude production and much of its natural gas. Transocean, the world’s biggest offshore drilling contractor, is suspending operations at all of its rigs and pulling nearly 1,600 people out of the Gulf. Weather research firm Planalytics predicted as much as 80 percent of the Gulf’s oil and gas production could be shut down as a precaution if Gustav enters the region as a major storm.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i5TtajgUpSm7KY5jf-ICJGHBB-tAD92RCL402>

2. *August 28, Bloomberg* – (National; Louisiana) **Southern Union shuts Sea Robin gas pipeline, plant on U.S. Gulf.** Southern Union Co. closed its Sea Robin natural-gas pipeline and processing plant in Louisiana on the U.S. Gulf Coast Wednesday after a malfunction that occurred during a pipeline cleaning operation. Pipeline cleaning began on the line between Vermillion 149 and the Sea Robin Condensate Facility operated by Devon Gas Service LP, according to a statement on the Web site of Southern Union’s Panhandle Energy unit. “During these activities, the level of condensate and water has exceeded the capacity at the Devon facility,” the statement said. “As a result the system has been shut in.” Sea Robin Pipeline Co., part of Panhandle Energy, said it will reconfirm pipeline deliveries and reduce related receipt nominations accordingly.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aObwLkRSyBgU&refer=energy>
3. *August 27, Associated Press* – (Minnesota; North Dakota; South Dakota) **Tanker trucks line up in West Fargo.** Dozens of gasoline tanker trucks were lined up at the Magellan terminal in West Fargo, North Dakota, on Wednesday. Drivers say other terminals in Grand Forks, North Dakota; Alexandria, Minnesota; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, are out of unleaded. A driver who hauls for Farstad Oil out of Fargo and Minot says the other terminals have been out for four or five days. But retailers in the region say they are confident there will be enough gas to cover demand during the upcoming holiday weekend.
Source: <http://www.in-forum.com/ap/index.cfm?page=view&id=D92QO66G4>
4. *August 26, Bloomberg* – (International) **Arctic cabinet meeting risks new cold war for oil.** Global warming is opening the Northwest Passage that sailing ships sought 500 years ago, and some of the world’s biggest oil reserves are becoming accessible under the polar sea. Russia, the U.S., Canada, Norway, and Denmark are jockeying for territory in moves that could end up in clashing claims. The five Arctic nations have sought to ease the tension. At a two-day summit in Greenland in May, they agreed to

work for an “orderly settlement” of any conflicting claims. The Canadian natural resource minister said at a Madrid conference in July that overlapping claims “will be minimal,” while the director of the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science told reporters August 11 that Russia’s territorial assertions are not “intruding” on U.S. interests. The retreat of the ice may allow oil companies to explore the deepest parts of the Arctic Ocean year-round as petroleum- rich nations in the Middle East, Latin America, and the former Soviet Union restrict access to reserves. The Arctic may hold 90 billion barrels of oil, more than the proven reserves of Nigeria, Kazakhstan, and Mexico combined, and enough to supply the U.S. for more than a decade, the U.S. Geological Survey said in July. The U.S. contests Canada’s sovereignty over the Northwest Passage, which could shrink travel between Shanghai and New Jersey by about 4,350 miles, and the two are disputing a sliver of water just north of Alaska.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aIVzlawM.9OY&refer=energy>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

5. *August 27, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **5 accused of stealing chemicals across North Texas to make amphetamines.** As part of an ongoing investigation, Parker County, Texas, authorities arrested at least five people Wednesday on suspicion of conspiring to steal chemicals from locations across North Texas to produce amphetamines. The 6-month-old investigation has yielded 32 warrants, and 17 people were in custody in the case as of 5 p.m. Wednesday, said a Parker County Sheriff’s Office official.

Source:

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/082808dnmetdrugbust_.4423919.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *August 27, Christian Science Monitor* – (National) **Will lasers brighten nuclear’s future?** Inside a bland industrial building in Wilmington, North Carolina, an experiment is in the works that could vastly reduce the cost, time, and space needed to make fuel for nuclear power plants. In that building, secret uranium-enrichment technology licensed by GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy is nearing a pilot test. If successful, the new technology will enable the company to supply low-cost nuclear fuel to power reactors worldwide, officials say. Only broad outlines of the “Separation of Isotopes by Laser EXcitation,” or SILEX technology, are public. In a statement responding to Monitor queries, the U.S. Department of Energy said, “Any program to build additional enrichment facilities in the United States will be evaluated for its safety, environmental, and nonproliferation characteristics before it is licensed to operate.” “Any increase in domestic enrichment

capacity will increase US energy self-reliance,” DOE said. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved the first-step SILEX “test loop” this spring. If SILEX is successful, GE-Hitachi could produce low-enriched uranium fuel for power plants at half the cost of centrifuge-based technology, says a laser expert in northern California. Source: <http://features.csmonitor.com/innovation/2008/08/27/will-lasers-brighten-nuclears-future/>

7. *August 27, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (New York) **NRC to monitor performance of new notification system for Indian Point nuclear power plant.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will continue to monitor the performance of the new emergency notification system for the Indian Point nuclear power plant now that it has been placed into service. Entergy, which operates the Buchanan, New York, plant, activated the system at noon Wednesday, five days after the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued its final approval for the design of the system. Indian Point’s new system is equipped with 172 sirens located throughout the roughly ten-mile-radius emergency planning zone for the facility. Those sirens would be used to notify residents of a significant event at the plant. In addition, Entergy is distributing tone alert radios to about 2,000 households in several areas as an enhancement to the siren sound coverage. Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-049.i.html>
8. *August 26, Environmental Protection* – (Texas; Vermont) **Company gets draft LLRW disposal license.** Valhi, Inc. announced on August 12 that its wholly-owned subsidiary, Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) has been notified that the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has issued a draft license for the near-surface disposal of Class A, B, and C low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) at the company’s site in Andrews County, Texas. “This is an important milestone for WCS, the people of Andrews and Lea counties, and the states of Texas and Vermont, as members of the Texas Compact,” said the chief executive officer of WCS. “This license will ensure that Texas and Vermont hospitals, universities, power plants, and other enterprises will be able to continue operating with the knowledge that there is an assured solution for the permanent disposal of their LLRW. With the closure of the Barnwell facility in South Carolina last month, Texas hospital and university administrators have expressed concern regarding the need for a commercial facility that can properly dispose of Class A, B, and C LLRW so that the diagnosis, treatment and research of cancer and other life threatening diseases, which generate such wastes, can continue,” he said. “The only U.S. commercial facility currently authorized to accept LLRW is limited to disposal of Class A waste. The barriers to entry in this industry are enormous. It is very unlikely another LLRW disposal facility will be opened in the foreseeable future, as more than \$1 billion has been invested since 1980 by the state of Texas and others in unsuccessful attempts to license and open such a facility,” he said. The TCEQ recently issued a byproduct material disposal license to WCS. When the LLRW disposal license is finalized, he said, “We believe WCS will have the broadest range of capabilities of any commercial enterprise in the U.S. for the storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous, toxic, low-level and mixed-low level radioactive waste and radioactive byproduct material.”

Source: <http://www.eponline.com/articles/66618/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *August 25, Aviation Week* – (National) **Unmanned-on-unmanned combat emerging in Iraq.** A week ago, the Reaper, the larger, higher-flying, faster and better-armed version of the MQ-1 Predator, dropped a 500-pound laser-guided GBU-12 on the vehicle. It was the first weapons engagement by Reaper since the aircraft started operations there July 18, said U.S. officials of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base. The aircraft is operated by the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance and Attack Squadron. Reapers have been operating for a year in Afghanistan, where U.S. and coalition aircrews have gained experience dropping laser-guided bombs and other precision weapons. “We searched for, found, fixed, targeted and destroyed a [threat] with just one aircraft,” said the 46th’s commander. The unit has the ability to fuse data from air, space and cyberspace and share it with other elements in the kill chain and command network via radio, telephone and secure internet systems.

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=defense&id=news/MQ9082508.xml

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *August 28, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Taiwan cracks major hacking ring, data on president stolen.** Police in Taiwan have arrested six people suspected of stealing personal data from state firms, including information about the island’s current and former presidents, officials said Wednesday. An official at Taiwan’s Criminal Investigation Bureau said the hackers had tapped into data held by government agencies, state-run firms, telecom companies and a television shopping network. He called it the biggest hacking operation of its kind in Taiwan. The suspects are believed to have stolen more than 50 million records of personal data, including information about Taiwan’s president, his predecessor, and the police chief, the official said. They then offered to sell the information for 300 Taiwan dollars (10 US) per entry, he said. The hackers, based in Taiwan and China, also swindled victims out of millions of Taiwan dollars through their online bank accounts, he said.

Source: <http://digital.asiaone.com/Digital/News/Story/A1Story20080828-84676.html>

11. *August 28, Communications News* – (National) **The case of the 12,000 lost laptops.** Business travelers are losing more than 12,000 laptops per week at U.S. airports. Only one-third of those are reclaimed, according to a study by the Ponemon Institute, sponsored by Dell. At the same time, more than 53 percent of polled business travelers say their laptops contain confidential or sensitive information, and 65 percent of these travelers admit they do not take steps to protect or secure the information contained on their laptop. Companies are dependent on a mobile workforce with access to information

no matter where they travel. This mobility, however, is putting companies at risk of having a data breach if a laptop containing sensitive information is lost or stolen. To gather more information about this concern, the Ponemon Institute conducted field research at 106 major airports in 46 states and surveyed 864 business travelers in an airport environment. The airports with the highest number of lost, missing or stolen laptops include: Los Angeles International, Miami International, Kennedy International and Chicago O'Hare. While Atlanta's Hartsfield- Jackson International is the busiest airport in the United States, it is tied for eighth place (with Washington's Reagan National) for lost, stolen or missing laptop computers. According to the study, the types of company information contained on business travelers' laptop computers include customer or consumer data (47 percent), business confidential information (46 percent), intellectual property such as software code, drawings or renderings (14 percent), and employee records (13 percent). The average business cost when confidential personal information is lost or stolen is \$197 per record, says the Ponemon Institute. Even one missing laptop, however, can become a serious problem for any organization.

Source:

http://www.redorbit.com/news/business/1535862/the_case_of_the_12000_lost_laptops/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

12. *August 28, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Plane makes emergency landing at Sky Harbor.** An Alaska Airlines plane made an emergency landing after taking off from Sky Harbor Airport Wednesday night. An indicator light on the 737 showed a possible fire in the Auxiliary Power Unit, a small jet engine at the back of the plane, according to an Alaska Airlines spokesperson. As a result, the flight crew decided to make an emergency landing in case of a real fire. Fire crews responded to the scene and used an infrared detector to determine there was never a fire on the plane.
Source: http://www.abc15.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=19f74f7a-bb44-4ae4-9b3a-9b95a6b60ad5
13. *August 27, USA Today* – (National) **Rail advocates urge closer look at train travel.** Surging gas prices, congested highways and airports, and soaring air fares all are contributing to an increasing demand for passenger rail, says a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) official. Ridership on Amtrak is up 17 percent this year over last year, he says. A Florida representative's proposal for a privately financed high-speed rail line from Washington, D.C., to New York City passed the House in June. Advocates also are watching an ambitious high-speed rail project in California. Voters there will decide in November on a \$10 billion bond issue that would help finance the first segment of a statewide high-speed rail system. If California moves ahead, the rest of the country could follow, the FRA official says." The California plans call for an 800-mile system that would connect San Francisco, Sacramento and the Central Valley with Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego. Some proposed projects are in Pittsburgh, Nevada-California, Maryland, Georgia, Washington- New York, Chicago- St. Louis, and Colorado.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/2008-08-26-fast-trains_N.htm

14. *August 27, Associated Press* – (National) **Glitch underscores importance of modernizing.** Most flights around the country were back to normal Wednesday, a day after problems with the National Airspace Data Interchange Network computer south of Atlanta. Those problems occurred during routine software work on the computer, one of just two in the country that play the vital role of distributing flight plans to dozens of controllers who monitor planes as they fly to their destinations, said the chief operations officer for the U.S. air traffic system. The other is in Salt Lake City. The Georgia center processes flight plans for the eastern half of the U.S., and Salt Lake City normally handles the western half. In a 24-hour period, the Federal Aviation Administration processes more than 300,000 flight plans in the U.S., according to the FAA. The Atlanta computer system, which is about 20 years old, was already scheduled to be replaced later this year with a system with far greater memory, the official said. Even so, he said, Tuesday's problems illustrate that piecemeal upgrades of the air traffic network — which the FAA says has at least 40,000 pieces of equipment — are not good enough. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26409578/>
15. *August 27, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **Panel finds TWIC riddled with problems.** The Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) program continues to be plagued by performance shortcomings, technical glitches, poor communications and other problems, according to a report from the National Maritime Security Advisory Committee's TWIC Working Group. The panel, chartered to advise the Homeland Security Department on implementing the new ID cards, has identified more than a dozen problems the panel says are causing the program to fail, according to a July 22 report obtained by Federal Computer Week. Goals for delivering the cards are not being met, according to the working group. Technical problems continue to slow enrollments, the group said, especially the inability of the biometric scanners to accurately record and process enrollee fingerprint templates. In some ports, as many as 8 percent of enrollees cannot complete enrollment due to fingerprinting issues, the panel said. Other technical problems that affect implementation of the program include incorrect information on the card; darkened photos; expiration date errors; and security features failing to print, the report added. Some applicants report waiting for several hours at enrollment centers, while others report having to visit an enrollment center repeatedly for as many as six visits. Communication and customer service also present difficulties, the report said. These include the TWIC Web site being down for maintenance; complicated password creation processes; difficulties in Web site navigation; enrollment center schedule changes not reported; and people failing to be notified, or being notified incorrectly, when their cards are available. The panel recommended providing an extra year's enrollment at no cost to people who met the original deadline of September 2008. Source: <http://www.fcw.com/online/news/153628-1.html>
16. *August 26, WRTV 6 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **New target for metal thieves putting drivers at risk, police say.** A new trend in metal thefts could put drivers at risk if trains lose communication after copper wires at railroad crossings are stolen. There has been a rash of the thefts recently on the rail line between Indianapolis and Anderson, police

said. “The wire thefts have disrupted the railroad operations severely over the last couple of weeks with the numerous thefts. I know of at least three nights, three separate occasions, where they’ve come back and taken the signal wire,” an Indianapolis Police Environmental Enforcement officer told WRTV 6. Once the wires are taken, cutting communication, train operators are required to immediately stop and wait for repairs. Many railroads, including CSX, are in the process of replacing their overhead copper wires with buried fiber optics and microwave communications.

Source: <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/17305765/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *August 27, WDBJ 7 Roanoke* – (Virginia) **Suspicious powder creates scare at warehouse.** A white powder set off a scare at a warehouse in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Wednesday. A company spokesperson says workers preparing to unload a truck found a white powder and their eyes started burning. Emergency crews were called, and preliminary tests did not indicate any hazardous substance. Two workers were taken to Danville Regional Medical Center for evaluation. A Hazardous materials team will perform more testing Thursday.

Source: <http://www.wdbj7.com/Global/story.asp?S=8910536>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *August 28, NewsOK* – (Oklahoma) **E. coli’s wide reach in northeast Oklahoma could grow.** The state Health Department on Wednesday linked a dangerous strain of E. coli bacteria to an intestinal disease outbreak in northeast Oklahoma that has killed one person and hospitalized 41 others. The confirmation will also help state officials determine the exact source of contamination. The type of E. coli found is extremely contagious, a state epidemiologist said. More than three-fourths of victims ate at the Country Cottage restaurant in Locust Grove between August 15 and August 22, she said. Testing shows “the restaurant is definitely involved as at least one of the sources of infection in this outbreak,” she said. Tests indicate that it is likely food was contaminated at the restaurant rather than before it arrived at the restaurant, she said. Based on interviews with victims, it appears that several types of foods at the restaurant were contaminated, she said. Two workers at Country Cottage are among the ill, she said. State health officials determined E. coli to be the source of contamination by testing stool samples of the outbreak victims. At least 10 of the outbreak’s victims have tested positive for a type of Shiga-toxin-producing E. coli bacteria related to the dangerous E. coli O157. The state health officials, however, could not isolate exactly what strain of E. coli is to blame. Samples were sent Wednesday to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for further analyses. Those tests could take several days and results will help health officials determine the exact source of contamination, she said.

Source: <http://newsok.com/e.-colis-wide-reach-in-northeast-oklahoma-could->

[grow/article/3289687/?tm=1219900367](http://www.grow.com/article/3289687/?tm=1219900367)

19. *August 27, Red Orbit* – (National) **Researchers find a way to target foot-and-mouth disease.** Scientists in the United Kingdom have found a way to quickly identify livestock at risk from infection through airborne transmission of the foot-and-mouth virus. A researcher from the Pirbright Laboratory at the Institute for Animal Health in Surrey explained that airborne transmissions, influenced by the wind and atmospheric turbulence, are particularly difficult to control. He and colleagues used NAME in their study - a system that has been developed by the UK Meteorological Office to predict the weather. Details about the source of the virus - including the number of animals infected were incorporated into the system. The recent 2007 UK outbreak in Surrey served as the first test of the model. Researchers acknowledged that successful implementation of these predictions require accurate information regarding the location of animals before any outbreak occurs. He said a well-coordinated and reliable data system could be automated: “The next day we would be able to say, these are the farms that we feel are the priority for inspection.” Scientists at the Institute for Animal Health have developed other models for predicting the transmission of other viral diseases that affect livestock. He said midges spread “bluetongue” - but they can be affected by which way the wind blows because they are so tiny and light.

Source:

http://www.redorbit.com/news/health/1535196/researchers_find_a_way_to_target_footandmouth_disease/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

20. *August 28, Colorado Goldfields, Inc.* – (Colorado) **Colorado Goldfields assesses alternative water treatment technologies with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.** Colorado Goldfields Inc. (CGFI) initiated two projects to assess alternative water treatment technologies in the Cement Creek watershed of San Juan County, Colorado. One project tests the Rotating Cylinder Treatment System at a proposed district-scale water treatment facility near Gladstone, Colorado. Separately, CGFI will be testing an Ionic State Modification system, developed by Blue Sky Water Treatment Technologies, Inc., to potentially treat the water discharge at the company’s Gold King site.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/colorado-goldfields-assesses-alternative-water/story.aspx?guid={4FA6AEA6-FEA5-4601-95F5-90E35DCAEA67}&dist=hppr>

21. *August 28, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **DNR releases drinking water report.** Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials say the “Iowa Public Drinking Water Program 2007 Annual Compliance Report” shows that public water supplies last year to more than 2.5 million Iowans were safe. The report lists any violations of health standards, monitoring, or reporting requirements. DNR officials say the results for 2007 were similar to recent years despite new federal requirements. They say there was significant improvement with compliance of a rule that requires water system operators

to measure byproducts of the disinfection process.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-drinkingwaterrepo,0,2279117.story>

22. *August 27, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Lancaster’s water contaminant level exceeds Texas standards.** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality reported Wednesday that the city of Lancaster’s drinking water exceeds the maximum contaminant level for trihalomethanes (TTHM). Those who drink excessive amounts of water containing TTHM may experience liver, kidney, or nervous system problems. There is also an increased risk of cancer. City officials said most residents can still safely drink the water, but those with health concerns should talk to a doctor. The city’s water provider, Dallas Water Utilities, has made adjustments in its water treatment process to lower levels of TTHM, city officials said. City officials are also looking into other options.

Source:

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/082808dnmetlan_cwater_.1b216bd0.html

23. *August 27, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Water rules revision taking longer than expected.** Revised water quality rules intended to protect Indiana’s waters from pollution are taking longer than expected to draft and likely will not be finalized until mid-2009, the state’s top environmental official said Wednesday. His agency will use “antidegradation” rules as a guide when it decides whether to approve wastewater permits for new or expanded industrial operations or to require companies to take greater steps to reduce their pollution discharges. A work group including several business and environmental stakeholders has been working for months on those revised water quality rules. Those rules will spell out the steps that a company or municipality planning a project must follow to show that they have examined the various technologies that can minimize a project’s new wastewater discharges. As the state’s work group continues its work on the new rules, six pending wastewater permits are on hold until the thrust of the new rules becomes clear. Five of those permits are sought by steel mill operations, including U.S. Steel and ArcelorMittal.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-in-waterqualityrule,0,3521995.story>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *August 28, Bloomberg* – (National) **Medicare overpaid on drugs with new generics, report says.** Medicare overpaid for drugs that had generic versions because of a time lag in computing prices from when the cheaper medicines became available, the U.S. Health and Human Services Department’s inspector general said in a report released Tuesday. Payments for cancer drug irinotecan, sold by Pfizer Inc. as Camptosar, remained at more than double the average manufacturer’s sales price after the generic version was cleared for sale Feb. 20, the report said. Medicare, the health insurance program for the elderly and disabled, would have saved \$6.5 million in March had it factored the generic price

into its rate. The agency's two-month delay in incorporating new, generic prices into its payment calculation is the reason for the higher payments, the inspector general wrote. The report urged Medicare to devise a formula that more quickly takes into account market prices of generic versions of brand-name drugs. The inspector general's office said overpayments apply to other drugs with new generics.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-medicare28-2008aug28,0,5072664.story>

25. *August 28, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Pontiac hospital out of cash.** North Oakland Medical Centers Inc. in Pontiac, Michigan, the hospital to be sold in October to a group of senior physicians, filed for bankruptcy protection after running out of cash. The 98-year-old hospital listed debt of as much as \$100 million and assets of less than \$50 million in a Chapter 11 petition filed Tuesday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Detroit. A not-for-profit institution, North Oakland has at least nine facilities and 366 beds. The hospital, which is only 20 percent full, sought permission to borrow \$2.75 million from McLaren Health Care Corp. to ensure that it remains open until the sale is completed October 24. North Oakland, formerly known as Pontiac General Hospital, "is in severe financial distress, despite current management's implementation of extensive restructuring and cost-cutting measures," the hospital said in court papers. A group of senior staff members agreed in April to buy the hospital and convert it into a for-profit enterprise. Without the sale agreement, the hospital would have closed as early as May 1 because of rising costs and falling governmental reimbursements for care of impoverished people, according to court papers.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080828/BUSINESS06/808280379>

26. *August 27, CNN* – (New York) **New York's HIV rate 3 times higher than nation's.** New York City's rate of HIV infection is about three times the national rate, according to estimates released Wednesday by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The agency estimates that 72 of every 100,000 New Yorkers – a total of 4,800 individuals – contracted HIV in 2006, more than triple the national rate of 23 per 100,000. The findings are based on new lab technology and a newly derived statistical model developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The lab technology enables health officials to determine whether HIV-positive individuals contracted the virus within the past five months, and the statistical model allows researchers to then make projections about a population's infection rate.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/08/27/hiv.nyc/?iref=mpstoryview>

27. *August 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Mothers warned of possible tuberculosis exposure at hospital.** Kaiser Permanente officials said today about 960 mothers and their newborn babies may have been exposed to tuberculosis at a San Francisco hospital in the past five months. The organization began contacting the mothers about the possible exposure on Tuesday, a Kaiser spokeswoman said. The outreach stemmed from the discovery that a part-time health care worker on the night shift in the Maternal Child Health unit at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center had developed active tuberculosis. The employee has not worked at the hospital since August 10.

Source: <http://cbs5.com/localwire/22.0.html?type=bcn&item=TB-KAISER-bagm->

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

28. *August 27, InformationWeek* – (National) **NASA security badge poses safety risk.** On August 15, a NASA safety notice issued at Kennedy Space Center warned that NASA’s new Identity Stronghold badge holder has the “potential to introduce dangerous Foreign Object Damage (FOD) to flight hardware areas and can cause personnel injury if the metal clips are installed improperly.” As reported by the maintainer of the Secrecy News site for the Federation of American Scientists, the badge holders were issued to comply with the president’s Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12. That directive establishes “a mandatory, Government-wide standard for secure and reliable forms of identification issued by the Federal Government to its employees and contractors.” The Secure Badgeholder has an electromagnetically opaque sleeve to prevent the card from being read at a distance and to give the user some control over when and where the card is exposed for reading.

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/security/government/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=210201122>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

29. *August 28, Washington Times* – (District of Columbia) **D.C. tests public safety system.** The District is testing a public safety communications system that allows firefighters, police, and medical personnel to link radio communications seamlessly with the Internet. Government and industry officials say the technology called Radio Over Wireless Broadband (ROW-B) has the potential to save first responders time in an emergency. By allowing a single user to view the locations of other users in a given area, the system enables firefighters and others to create an ad-hoc group of users and communicate with each other immediately and simultaneously, either over wireless broadband or through traditional wireless radios. Interoperability is a challenge for jurisdictions across the country as most emergency officials rely on their own land mobile radio (LMR) systems while state and federal responders are increasingly using mobile Internet devices. The 9/11 commission identified interagency communication breakdowns on September 11, 2001, as hampering the response to the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and in New York. While the government subsequently ordered the creation of a nationwide, interoperable communications network for first responders, its future is uncertain after a federal plan to auction off airwaves for the network to private bidders, who would build the network and give public safety top priority, failed to attract a minimum bid.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/28/dc-tests-public-safety-system/>

30. *August 27, FierceVoIP* – (National) **FCC discusses new 911 VoIP rules.** On Monday,

the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published a notice for establishing rules on how Enhanced 911 (E-911) systems would handle calls from IP phones. Enhanced 911 calls go to around 6,000 public safety answering points (PSAPs) around the country. Under the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), the FCC wants to make sure VoIP providers have access to the capabilities they need to provide both basic 911 and E911 services. The FCC wants to make sure 911 works the same way regardless where a call is made. The FCC also wants to make sure calls coming from mobile phones or VoIP provide “meaningful” automatic location information. It is going through with the NPRM to comply with the newly enacted “New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008.”

Source: <http://www.fiercevoip.com/story/fcc-discusses-new-911-voip-rules/2008-08-27>

31. *August 27, WTVG 13 Toledo* – (Ohio) **Local emergency teams practice terror drills.** Federal, state, and local emergency teams joined forces along the Maumee Wednesday for a drill designed to respond to a terrorist attack on Toledo’s port. The U.S. Coast Guard’s Marine Safety Unit organized the 6-hour drill.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wtv/story?section=news/local&id=6355079>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

32. *August 28, DB Techno* – (National) **Computer virus hits ISS, should NASA worry?** It was confirmed yesterday by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) that they discovered a computer virus that has the ability to steal passwords on a laptop that is aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The virus was first discovered by Symantec back on August 27, 2008, with the virus being called W32.Gammima.AG. It impacts systems running Windows 2000, 95, 98, Me, NT, XP, and Windows Server 2003. At this point though, it does not seem that there is much of a threat to NASA directly from the virus. The report states that the virus is very easy to contain and remove, and can cause minimal damage.

Source: <http://www.dbtechno.com/space/2008/08/28/computer-virus-hits-iss-should-nasa-worry/>

33. *August 28, PC Advisor* – (National) **Hackers resort to ‘sick’ kidnap spam.** Hackers are claiming they have kidnapped children in a bid to infect PCs with a Trojan Horse virus, said security firm Sophos. The security firm is warning users that emails entitled ‘We have hijacked your baby’ are being sent to Web users around the globe. As well as asking for a US\$50,000 ransom for the ‘release’ of the child, the messages also contain an attachment supposed to be a photograph of the child. Instead the file actually contains a deadly Trojan Horse that will steal personal information.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.idg.com.au/index.php/id;1663778139>

34. *August 27, ComputerWorld* – (National) **Terror threat system crippled by technical flaws, says Congress.** A U.S. House subcommittee is charging that a \$500 million IT project intended to “connect the dots” on terrorists and help prevent another 9/11 is a failure; it can’t even handle basic Boolean search terms, such as “and,” “or” and “not.”

Allegations of waste and mismanagement were outlined in a staff memo and letter from the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, which is part of the Committee on Science and Technology. The material was released last week in what is usually a quiet month for Congress during its August recess. The bulk of the subcommittee's charges come from a memo prepared by subcommittee staff about a data integration project called Railhead, which is intended to help intelligence and law enforcement agencies uncover terrorist plots. Railhead, due to be ready by year's end, was supposed to combine and upgrade existing databases called Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment and improve terrorism-fighting capabilities. But the project is in such bad shape -- suffering from delays and cost overruns -- that Subcommittee Chairman said: "There may be current efforts under way to close down Railhead completely."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9113658&intsrc=hm_list

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

35. *August 27, ComputerWorld* – (National) **Apple forgets to fix iPhone passcode bug.** An iPhone bug that Apple Inc. patched last January to stop unauthorized users from bypassing the password-protected locking feature has resurfaced in newer versions of the phone's software. The bug also affects the iPod touch. First reported yesterday by a user identified as "greenmymac" on the MacRumors forum, the flaw lets anyone sidestep passcode locking by simply tapping "Emergency Call" on the password-entry screen, then double-tapping the Home button. That leads to the iPhone's Favorites, a list of frequently-called contacts, and their contact information, including phone numbers and addresses. If any of the contacts have e-mail or Web addresses associated with them, the trick also allows access to the iPhone's e-mail application and Safari browser, respectively.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9113646&intsrc=hm_list

36. *August 27, Providence Business News* – (Rhode Island) **Verizon launches FiOS in Glocester, Smithfield.** Verizon Communications Inc. Wednesday began offering its FiOS fiber-optic television service in Glocester and Smithfield, Rhode Island. Verizon's local spokesman told Providence Business News the company expects to have the fiber-optic network built out to reach 85 percent of Rhode Island customers by the end of the year. The Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission has granted Verizon approval to

offer FiOS service in 29 of the state's 39 communities; the most recent approval was for state Cable Service Area 1, which includes Gloucester and Smithfield. The television and Internet service is now available in 16 cities and towns across the Ocean State, the spokesman said, and the company expects it will be offered in four more municipalities by the end of the year: Cumberland, Lincoln, Central Falls, and Pawtucket. The other nine communities for which the company already has approval should gain access to the actual FiOS service in 2009, he said.

Source: <http://www.pbn.com/stories/34747.html>

37. *August 27, Media Daily News* – (National) **FCC may still require HD access to satellite radios.** Reviving an issue that earlier appeared to be settled, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may still require the merged Sirius-XM satellite radio broadcaster to include hardware that makes their radios compatible with HD terrestrial radio broadcasts. In a Notice of Inquiry, the FCC is inviting comment from the public and companies that may be affected, including manufacturers of satellite radios. The news comes just a few weeks after the FCC voted along party lines to allow the satellite radio merger to proceed. To get approval, Sirius and XM had to agree to a number of conditions, including leasing eight percent of the satellite spectrum to minority and public broadcasters and a three-year price cap on subscriptions. The 3-to-2 FCC vote made no mention of the HD radio requirement, which had been discussed but not included in the list of conditions presented to the satellite radio broadcasters.

Source:

http://www.mediapost.com/publications/?fa=Articles.showArticleHomePage&art_aid=89370

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

38. *August 28, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Officials may evacuate New Orleans as Gustav nears.** With forecasters warning that Gustav could strengthen and slam into the Gulf Coast as a major hurricane, a New Orleans still recovering from Hurricane Katrina's devastating hit drew up evacuation plans. Since Katrina, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has spent billions of dollars to improve the levee system, but because of two quiet hurricane seasons, the flood walls have never been tested. Floodgates have

been installed on drainage canals to stop any storm surge from entering the city, and levees have been raised and in many places strengthened with concrete. The regional levee director said the levee system can handle a storm with the likelihood of occurring every 30 years, what the Corps calls a 30-year storm. By comparison, Katrina was a 396-year storm. Scientists cautioned that the storm's track and intensity were difficult to predict several days in advance. But in New Orleans, there was little else to do except prepare as if it were Katrina.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gpauVAbn-X0yxQd1J28sB10cw2AD92R75HO0>

39. *August 27, United Press International* – (Louisiana) **Officials eyeing levee work stoppage.** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and New Orleans officials say they are considering stopping work on most levee projects due to an approaching hurricane. A New Orleans levee official said with Hurricane Gustav slowly approaching the region, work on more than 20 miles of levees may be temporarily suspended to better prepare for the storm, the New Orleans Times-Picayune said Wednesday. The West Bank area of New Orleans was not hit hard during Hurricane Katrina; but without the completion of the full levee project, it may not be as fortunate with the next major hurricane. The Times-Picayune said due to such potential problems, levee board officials have stockpiled 3,000-pound rock bags to act as water barriers, along with large quantities of rock and sand.
- Source:
http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/08/27/Officials_eyeing_levee_work_stoppage/UP-I-10391219856478/
40. *August 27, Sun Journal* – (Ohio) **Expert helps with dam.** Canton, Ohio, recently took the Whitney Brook dam by eminent domain after the previous owner failed to make repairs demanded by the state. The dam helps regulate the level of water in Anasagunticook Lake. The chairman of the committee working on problems with the dam led a discussion to formalize objectives in replacing the dam. Reasons include public safety and maintaining proper water level for the environmental health of the lake and to protect the Canton water supply. He stated that the committee wanted to install a temporary dam that would stabilize the summer level with only the required drawdown during the winter to provide for the spring runoff. The official is providing the Department of Environmental Protection with a hazard analysis of the proposed temporary dam indicating what would be the effect if it were to fail. His preliminary calculations indicate that it would have minimal effect on the few residents left in the Canton flood plain. The committee will draft a letter of understanding to be adopted by Canton, Hartford, and other interested parties before work begins.
- Source: http://www.sunjournal.com/story/280369-3/RiverValley/Expert_helps_with_dam/
41. *August 27, Hawk Eye* – (Iowa) **Levee repair progress a concern.** The speed at which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes repairs to levees in neighboring Louisa County, Iowa, could directly affect infrastructure in Des Moines County, the county's engineer cautioned this week. He said any delay will leave Des Moines County

infrastructure vulnerable to the same conditions that spurred the Mississippi and Iowa rivers to reach historic flood levels. In June, a swelling Iowa River damaged a section of county highway. The Corps corporate communications chief said repairs to a levee in rural Louisa County damaged by floodwater from the Mississippi will be completed in November. However, the realignment of a temporary levee on County Road H22 will take longer. At a special session Thursday, the board will decide whether to hire a disaster recovery specialist to manage flood debris removal efforts and facilitate Federal Emergency Management Agency paperwork.

Source: <http://www.thehawkeye.com/Story/DMC-supes-082708>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to NICCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421
Removal from Distribution List:	Send mail to NICCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.