



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 December 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- Reuters reports organized criminal gangs are targeting universities, computer clubs, and online forums to hire undergraduates to commit Internet crime for a multibillion-dollar industry that is more lucrative than the drug trade. (See item [10](#))
- The Food and Drug Administration is continuing to investigate an ongoing outbreak of E. coli O157 infection in consumers, associated with eating food from Taco Bell restaurants in six states. (See item [19](#))
- The Associated Press reports Derrick Shareef, a Muslim convert, is in custody after planning to use hand grenades to blow garbage cans into clouds of flying shrapnel at the CherryVale shopping mall in Rockford, Illinois, about 90 miles northwest of Chicago. (See item [39](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

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. *December 07, NBC 30 (CT)* — **Operator of Millstone nuclear plant replacing old warning system.** The 24-year-old siren warning system for the Millstone nuclear power plant in southeast Connecticut is being replaced. Dominion, the owner of Millstone Power Station, has begun replacing the region's warning system with sophisticated sirens that can carry tones

farther and handle live voice messages. The company will replace all 159 sirens over the next three years with a total of 80 to 85 new ones. Dominion spokesperson Pete Hyde said the sirens sit on poles throughout the communities surrounding the nuclear power complex, but are also available for use by local and state public safety officials in emergencies. The reason fewer sirens are needed is that the technology has advanced, and the sirens' six, low-frequency tones can travel farther than tones emitted by the old sirens. All sirens are on battery power and have solar power as a backup to charge the batteries, so in a true emergency, when power is out, they can still function.

Source: <http://www.nbc30.com/news/10481730/detail.html>

2. *December 06, Reuters* — **U.S. reactors should store nuclear waste.** Nuclear waste should be kept at the reactors where it is produced until the planned Yucca Mountain storage site opens, the chairman of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission told reporters on Wednesday, December 6. Some have suggested energy companies ship waste to the Nevada site to be held above ground until proposed underground storage opens there in 2017, at the earliest. But Chairman Dale Klein said keeping byproducts from reactions at the facilities is a good temporary solution. For two decades, the federal government has tangled with states' rights group and environmentalists about burying nuclear waste in the desert about 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The Energy Department plans to turn in an application for a license to build on the site to the commission in June 2008, Klein said. By then, the commission expects the country to rely more on nuclear energy.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=bon dsNews&storyID=2006-12-06T233524Z_01_N06478252_RTRIDST_0_NUC LEAR-YUCCA.XML

3. *December 06, Reuters* — **U.S. power grid needs more work to avoid blackouts, federal regulator states.** The United States needs a combination of new power transmission capacity and more programs to improve energy efficiencies and conservation to prevent blackouts, a federal energy regulator said. Marc Spitzer, a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), said more programs that take megawatts off the grid, such as automatically turning off air conditioners for a few hours on hot days, can help to ease strain on the power system next summer and beyond. "We need to raise the bar for demand response and energy efficiency programs," Spitzer said in a telephone interview with Reuters on Tuesday, December 5. The U.S. Department of Energy has singled out Southern California and the East Coast corridor between Boston and Washington, DC, as regions where new grid work is badly needed to alleviate congestion. Other regions with reliability concerns include the Seattle-Portland corridor, Phoenix-Tucson, and areas in Wisconsin and Florida, Spitzer said. The FERC commissioner also noted that distributed generation – siting small power plants near customers — and programs like California's initiative to install solar energy panels on one million homes and businesses reduce the need for transmission.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=bon dsNews&storyID=2006-12-06T23244Z_01_N06340554_RTRIDST_0_ENE RGY-FERC-TRANSMISSION.XML

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *December 09, Salem News (OH)* — **Accident, diesel spill close Ohio Route 62.** An early-morning accident in Goshen Township Friday, December 8, caused U.S. Route 62 to be closed for several hours. According to a report from the Canfield post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, at 3:30 a.m. EST a 2005 GMC pick-up truck traveling east bound on U.S. Route 62 lost control on the snow-covered road. The truck slid left of center and struck a commercial tractor-trailer in the west bound lane. The collision caused the tractor-trailer to overturn, and spill diesel fuel in the roadway. A hundred gallons of diesel fuel were spilled. East and west bound lanes of U.S. Route 62 were closed in the immediate vicinity for several hours.
Source: <http://www.salemnews.net/News/articles.asp?articleID=3707>

5. *December 08, KWTX (TX)* — **Gas line rupture leads to evacuations.** A ruptured gas line Friday, December 8, near Carthage, TX, led to precautionary evacuations. The Panola County sheriff's department says residents in a five-mile radius around the site were evacuated. Authorities say a drilling crew accidentally hit the underground line.
Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/news/headlines/4867096.html>

6. *December 08, KAMC 28 (TX)* — **Utility company causes gas leak in Texas.** It took a real effort to clean up a gas leak in Central Lubbock, TX, Friday afternoon, December 8. Workers from Lubbock Power and Light struck a gas pipe as they were putting in a new power line. Police blocked off parts of the intersection, while firefighters eliminated the risk, and workers from Atmos Energy fixed the pipe. The leak happened right across the street from Monterey High School. School officials kept students inside the building until the pipe was repaired.
Source: <http://www.kamc28.tv/news/default.asp?mode=shownews&id=2024>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *December 08, Federal Computer Week* — **DARPA extends wireless revolution.** The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Strategic Technology Office wants vendors and researchers to help it start a wireless revolution for battlefield tactical networks that goes beyond the mobile ad hoc networks first proposed in 1997. In a request for information released Thursday, December 7, DARPA said it wants proposals submitted for its next-generation wireless networking project. The proposals should address the development of "revolutionary, paradigm-shifting wireless communication and networking concepts that enable scalable, high-performance, robust communications under high-tempo mobility and stringent size, weight and power constraints, while providing reliable end-to-end security." DARPA wants proposals that will help it develop tactical wireless networks that have little centralized control or infrastructure and limited or no reliance on aerial relay nodes with a throughput of greater than 300 kilobits/sec for a network with 200 nodes.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article97057-12-08-06-Web>

8. *December 08, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-51: Information Technology: DoD Needs to Ensure That Navy Marine Corps Intranet Program Is Meeting Goals and**

Satisfying Customers (Report). The Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) is a 10-year, \$9.3 billion information technology services program. Through a performance-based contract, the Navy is buying network (intranet), application, and other hardware and software services at a fixed price per unit (or “seat”) to support about 550 sites. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) prepared this report under the Comptroller General’s authority as part of a continued effort to assist Congress and reviewed (1) whether the program is meeting its strategic goals, (2) the extent to which the contractor is meeting service level agreements, (3) whether customers are satisfied with the program, and (4) what is being done to improve customer satisfaction. To accomplish this, GAO reviewed key program and contract performance management-related plans, measures, and data and interviewed NMCI program and contractor officials, as well as NMCI customers at shipyards and air depots. GAO is making recommendations to the Secretary of Defense aimed at implementing effective program performance management, expanding measurement and understanding of service level agreement performance, effectively managing customer satisfaction improvement efforts, and deciding whether overall performance to date warrants program changes. In commenting on a draft of this report, the Department of Defense (DoD) agreed with GAO’s recommendations. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0751high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-51>

9. *December 07, Government Computer News* — **DoD still struggling with radio-frequency spectrum use.** More than a decade after a study commissioned by the Joint Chiefs of Staff examined the Department of Defense's (DoD) use of radio-frequency spectrum, the DoD still struggles with how to manage the finite resource, what tools to deploy and how to make sure the equipment that troops rely on doesn't fail because of radio-frequency interference. Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, the Army's director of architecture, operations, networks and space, said DoD still struggles with how to make the best spectrum investments. Radio-frequency demand continues to increase exponentially with conflicting systems all vying for the same limited bandwidth. Better spectrum management tools are needed. “We need to use spectrum more effectively and efficiently. We need to come up with co-existence and sharing techniques,” Jost said. “Commercial industry has made investments to increase” their management of spectrum. “Likewise, we have to show we’re making the best use of our spectrum, which means more efficient waveforms.”
Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/42743-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *December 08, Reuters* — **Internet gangs hire students for cybercrime.** Organized gangs have adopted "KGB-style" tactics to hire high-flying computer students to commit Internet crime, a McAfee report said on Friday, December 8. Criminals are targeting universities, computer clubs and online forums to find undergraduates. Some gangs have sponsored promising students from other disciplines to attend computer courses before planting them in businesses as "sleepers." McAfee said the students write computer viruses, commit identity theft and launder money in a multibillion-dollar industry that is more lucrative than the drug trade. The gangs' tactics echo the way Russian agents sought out experts at trade conferences or universities during the Cold War, the company said in an annual report. "Although organized criminals may have less of the

expertise and access needed to commit cybercrimes, they have the funds to buy the necessary people to do it for them," the report says. McAfee said its study was based partly on FBI and European intelligence. "Many of these cybercriminals see the Internet as a job opportunity," McAfee quoted FBI Internet security expert Dave Thomas as saying. Hackers are paid to write computer viruses that can detect credit card numbers or other personal information which is then used by scammers.

Source: http://news.com.com/Internet+gangs+hire+students+for+cybercrime/2100-7348_3-6141989.html?tag=cd.top

11. *December 08, Finextra (UK)* — **PNC Bank introduces bi-directional authentication.** PNC Bank is to implement new bi-directional authentication services for online banking customers ahead of an end-year deadline for U.S. banks to improve Website security. PNC Bank customers will choose an on-screen image and caption to use when they access their accounts. The customers and the bank will exchange the information to check each others' identities. If the consumer is logging in from an unknown machine, the bank will ask a pre-determined personal question, such as "what is your best friend's first name?". The new security procedures have been developed in response to calls from the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council for banks to strengthen their online authentication by the end of 2006.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16249>

12. *December 07, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury designations target terrorist facilitators.** The U.S. Department of the Treasury Thursday, December 7, designated five individuals for providing financial support to al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations, as well as facilitating terrorist activity. The individuals were designated pursuant to Executive Order 13224 and added to the Treasury's list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists. "These individuals support every stage of the terrorist life-cycle, from financing terrorist groups and activity, to facilitating deadly attacks, and inciting others to join campaigns of violence and hate. The civilized world must stand united in isolating these terrorists," said Stuart Levey, Treasury's Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence. This designation freezes any assets the designees may have under U.S. jurisdiction and prohibits all financial and commercial transactions by any U.S. person with the designees. Designees: Najmuddin Faraj Ahmad, Hamid Al-Ali, Jaber Al-Jalamah, Mubarak Mushakhas Sanad Al-Bathali, and Mohamed Moumou.

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp191.htm>

13. *December 06, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury targets Hezbollah fundraising network in the Triple Frontier of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay.** The U.S. Department of the Treasury Wednesday, December 6, designated nine individuals and two entities that have provided financial and logistical support to the Hezbollah terrorist organization. The designees are located in the Tri-Border Area (TBA) of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay and have provided financial and other services for Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) Assad Ahmad Barakat, who was previously designated in June 2004 for his support to Hezbollah leadership. "Assad Ahmad Barakat's network in the Tri-Border Area is a major financial artery to Hezbollah in Lebanon," said Adam Szubin, Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). "Today's action aims to disrupt this channel and to further unravel Barakat's financial network." Designated individuals: Muhammad Yusif Abdallah, Hamzi Ahmad Barakat, Hatim Ahmad Barakat, Muhammad Fayez Barakat, Muhammad Tarabain Chamas, Saleh Mahmoud

Fayad, Sobhi Mahmoud Fayad, Ali Muhammad Kazan, Farouk Omairi, Casa Hamze, Galeria Page. For more information on the designation of Assad Ahmad Barakat:

<http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/js1720.htm>.

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp190.htm>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

14. *December 08, Chicago Sun–Times* — Aldermen: Conductors belong back on CTA. Chicago aldermen demanded Thursday, December 7, that the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) restore conductors — at least 25 to ride on subway trains. Richard Winston, the CTA's executive vice president for transit operations, tried to convince the City Council's Transportation Committee that technology — cameras, intercoms and the ability to make cell phone calls on subways — was enough to protect passengers. Angry aldermen didn't buy it. The CTA eliminated 300 to 400 conductors in a 1997 cost-cutting move. The absence of conductors became apparent July 11. A CTA Blue Line train derailed at the height of the afternoon rush. Passengers complained they were left to find their own way through a dark and smoky tunnel because they didn't hear any announcements from the train's motorman. Instead of using the train's PA system, the motorman went car-to-car with a flashlight instructing passengers to head to an emergency exit 400 feet away from the front of the train. But the motorman didn't make it to every car. Among those he missed was the eighth and final car, which caught fire after both sets of wheels jumped the tracks.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/165112.CST–NWS–cta08.arti cle>

15. *December 08, Mercury News (CA)* — Oakland port explores options to win more security funds. State and local agencies must bolster efforts to fill security gaps federal officials have left at California ports, says a new state report, which also endorses Oakland's bid to use voter-approved bonds as leverage for more U.S. funds. The Port of Oakland — which inexplicably received no federal security funding this year — is pitching use of prospective transportation bond money approved by voters last month to boost their matching funds for acquiring federal money, according to the state Senate Office of Research report. The \$20 billion transportation bond provides \$100 million for port security, which is intended mostly for equipment purchases but is not limited to that use. Eve Grossman, the port's government affairs manager, contacted U.S. homeland security officials about using state bond funds to help meet the local financial match requirement for federal funds — or to even offer more than the required 25 percent minimum as an incentive. Meanwhile, state lawmakers preparing to enter a new legislative session are eyeing ways to raise additional funds for port security.

Report: Port Security, California's Exposed Container Ports: The Case for More Post-9/11

Protection: http://www.sen.ca.gov/sor/reports/REPORTS_BY_SUBJ/PUBLIC_SAFETY_JUDICIARY/PRIVACY206.pdf

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/politics/161_93037.htm

16. *December 07, USA TODAY* — TSA may let non-fliers go to gates. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is testing whether it can ease a post-9/11 policy that bars people from meeting relatives and friends at airports as they come off flights. A test program at Dallas/Fort Worth and Detroit airports could pave the way for other airports to allow

non-travelers through checkpoints to meet passengers or shop at stores and restaurants. "There are a lot of airports that would like people without boarding passes to have access to concessions," said Michael Conway, a spokesperson for Detroit Metro Airport, which starts its test next week. The TSA began requiring boarding passes at checkpoints after it took over airport security in 2002 -- largely to reduce the number of people getting screened and ease lines, said Steve Martin of the Airports Council International. Letting non-travelers back in security lines "adds to the congestion and the difficulty of screening," said aviation security consultant Billie Vincent. The TSA says it won't waive boarding-pass requirements if it would lengthen lines or weaken security, and notes that the test is small. "We are interested to evaluate how limited expansion. .. would work," TSA spokesperson Amy Kudwa said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006-12-07-tsa_x.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

17. *December 08, Agricultural Research Service* — Mushrooms have a future in fighting parasite in poultry. Wide use of a mushroom extract to protect poultry against a major parasitic disease is now closer, thanks to an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientist and her South Korean colleagues. The researchers -- led by immunologist Hyun Lillehoj at the ARS Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory -- developed a technique for controlling coccidiosis, which costs the world's poultry industry billions of dollars in losses annually. The new method is the subject of a patent application. It introduces mushroom lectins to birds via injection into developing embryos, or through drinking water. Once administered, the lectins spur a protective reaction against the disease in the gut. Coccidiosis is caused by parasites of the genus *Eimeria* that infect the intestinal tract and are transmitted between birds through infected feces. Often most severe in birds that are young or whose disease immunity has been weakened by other infections, the disease can cause bloody diarrhea, severe dehydration, substantial weight loss and death. The treatment significantly protected chickens against coccidiosis-associated weight loss and reduced fecal shedding of live parasites.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2006/061208.htm>

18. *December 07, Agricultural Research Service* — Smarter application improves catfish vaccine. New vaccination processes could improve the efficiency and effectiveness of catfish vaccines, according to a study by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in the agency's Aquatic Animal Health Research Unit. Diseases like enteric septicemia and columnaris cost the U.S. catfish industry an estimated \$50-70 million per year. Two vaccines have been invented to immunize catfish against these diseases. Both vaccines can be given to channel catfish eggs about 24-48 hours before hatching, a recent study found. This suggests they can be successfully vaccinated during the "eyed-egg stage," when they are still in the hatchery -- long before they're exposed to pond pathogens. Currently, fish are vaccinated when

they are 10 days old, in the trucks that transport them to the ponds where they will be raised. The study also proved that the two vaccines could be administered simultaneously, making the treatment more efficient. This is beneficial, as both pathogens frequently appear in the same ponds.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2006/061207.htm>

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Food Sector

19. *December 08, Food and Drug Administration* — FDA investigates E. coli O157 cases associated with Taco Bell restaurants. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continues to investigate an ongoing outbreak of E. coli O157 infection in consumers, associated with eating food from Taco Bell restaurants in six states. FDA is collaborating with state and local health officials, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the firm, suppliers, and distributors to determine the cause of the sicknesses and prevent additional infections. CDC reported Friday, December 8, 62 probable or confirmed cases of illness in six states associated with the outbreak. In the vast majority of the cases, individuals reported having eaten at a Taco Bell restaurant within seven days before onset of illness. A significant percentage of cases resulted in hospitalization. To date, no data implicates or rules out any specific food item served at the Taco Bell restaurants. FDA has obtained samples of all non-meat items served in the restaurants that could carry the pathogen. On December 6, Taco Bell Corp. announced it was voluntarily removing green onions from its restaurants nationwide after preliminary testing by the firm indicated the possible presence of E. coli O157:H7 in samples of the product. Tests to confirm that preliminary finding continue but have not yet been completed.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01518.html>

20. *December 08, USAgNet* — Ready Pac confirms halting shipments of green onions to Taco Bell. Following a report from Taco Bell Corp. of a preliminary and inconclusive test for E. coli O157:H7 on green onions, Ready Pac took immediate precautionary measures to protect public health. "Even though the test results are not confirmed, we have taken every prudent precaution and immediately stopped production and shipments of all green onions," emphasized Steve Dickstein, VP Marketing for Ready Pac. Green onions are only produced in a limited production run exclusively for Taco Bell in one section of the Florence, NJ, plant. "All raw and processed green onions have been removed from the plant as part of our precautionary measures." Ready Pac is working with Taco Bell, regulatory agencies, and industry experts to determine the root cause of this issue.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2570&yr=2006>

21. *December 07, Dow Jones* — Japan mulls U.S. suggestion for correcting meatpacker errors. Japanese government officials Thursday, December 7, began assessing a U.S. government report recommending corrective steps to be taken by a U.S. meatpacker that made a shipment last month without proper documentation, an official said. On November 8, Japan halted beef imports from Swift & Co.'s plant in Greeley, CO, after a shipment from the facility arrived in the western city of Osaka without proper documentation. Corrective measures proposed by Swift's Greeley plant include reprogramming scanning software to lock up the inventory scanning system when unauthorized product codes for shipments to Japan are identified, the

report said. Other steps the report recommended for the plant include running products destined for Japan on a dedicated packaging line, and performing verification scans, manual audits, and visual label verifications of shipments, it said.

Source: <http://www.agriculture.com/ag/futuresource/FutureSourceStoryIndex.jhtml?storyId=75100431>

22. *December 07, Western Farm Press* — **Almond Board salmonella plan published.** After two years of research and consultation involving California's annual \$2.5 billion almond industry, the Almond Board of California's (ABC) proposal to create a mandatory pasteurization program to eliminate the potential for salmonella bacteria in California almonds is one step closer to reality. The plan is designed to negate future chances of California almond-caused salmonella outbreaks. Salmonella outbreaks were traced to California almonds in 2001 and 2004. For handlers who are shipping raw almonds directly into consumer channels whether to a retailer or a manufacturer who repacks them, the almonds must be pasteurized before leaving the handling facility. Two exceptions would exist: unpasteurized almonds shipped directly to a manufacturer in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico with the manufacturer having submitted an application and qualified for direct verifiable user status by the Almond Board; and unpasteurized almonds shipped to other export markets. Cartons, bins, and boxes would require unpasteurized labeling under the exceptions. Handlers would be required to prepare a treatment plan explaining how pasteurization procedures would be incorporated into the operations. Final plans would be due by May 2007.

Proposed plan: <http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=71089625424+0+0+0&WAISaction=retrieve>

Source: <http://westernfarmpress.com/news/120706-almond-salmonella/>

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Water Sector

23. *December 08, Anchorage Daily News* — **Study: Mines fail to meet water-quality expectations.** Mines in the United States are failing to meet water-quality standards, according to a research study published Thursday, December 7, by Earthworks, a Washington, DC, mine-watchdog group. That's despite the fact that today's mines – unlike historic ones – must show they will meet water-quality standards to get approved. The study is getting some heavy scrutiny from Alaskans worried about the potential development of the massive Pebble copper, gold and molybdenum prospect in Southwest Alaska. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials in Seattle, WA, said the study might provide some new and useful information to regulators. One of the study's major findings is that water-quality impacts at mines are common and they are most often caused by unsuccessful cleanups. The main culprit appears to be faulty predictions before the mines are approved by regulators, the study's authors said Thursday. The authors obtained sufficient water-quality data to evaluate 25 mines – all of them opened in the past 30 years and more than half of them still operating. The study is based on a review of federal records on 71 of the 183 hard-rock metal mines that have opened in the United States since 1975. Study: <http://www.mineralpolicy.org/publications.cfm?pubID=211>
Source: http://www.adn.com/money/industries/mining/story/8476154p-83_69782c.html

24.

December 07, Associated Press — **Iowa's water supply unclear because of budget cuts.** The ability of the state's water supply to meet the demand of the booming ethanol and livestock industries is unknown, a state expert said. Bob Libra, a geologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources office in Iowa City, IA, told the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission on Tuesday that in 2004, the Legislature cut the budget for much of the work needed to track the state's water supply. The cuts come during record growth in construction of livestock confinement and an unprecedented boom in the ethanol industry. Water plants also have been faced with greater demand in cities and rural areas, Libra said. The need to monitor water supply and usage is based in the recent growth in industries, such as ethanol and livestock, that require water.

Source: <http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2006/12/07/news/iowa/68cebff610e4967b8625723d0012984f.txt>

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Public Health Sector

25. *December 08, Radio Iowa* — Undiagnosed outbreak in Iowa. Several outbreaks of illnesses have hit clusters of Iowans in recent weeks and yet another mystery case has appeared now in Waterloo/Cedar Falls. The Black Hawk County Health Department is investigating more than a dozen cases of what's known as serious diarrheal illness. Health officials right now aren't exactly sure what's causing it, but they've not ruled out food poisoning. Since Wednesday, December 6, at least ten people have gone to area hospitals to be treated for symptoms that include respiratory illness and serious diarrhea. Officials are saying that norovirus is likely not the cause, however, they're still looking into the matter.

Source: <http://www.radioiowa.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=13BCE066-AD D3-44D8-9A300DCCFCCCADC9&dbtranslator=local.cfm>

26. *December 08, BBC* — Blood transfusions: Potential transmission route for vCJD. A study of transfusion patients given blood contaminated with the human form of mad cow disease has indicated the 24 still alive are at "substantial" risk. Prof. John Collinge's assessment follows his investigation into the third person infected from the original group of 66. The patient, the first to be diagnosed with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) while alive, has since died. The patient received the blood transfusion at the age of 23 and later became ill. The diagnosis of vCJD was confirmed after his death when his tonsil tissue was examined. Diseases in humans such as vCJD are known to have long incubation periods. The incubation period when prions pass from human to human is thought to be much shorter than when they pass from one species to another. Experts believe that, based on the cases seen so far, infection from a blood transfusion can develop in just six or seven years. Writing in the *Lancet*, Kumanan Wilson of Toronto General Hospital and Maura Ricketts of the Public Health Agency of Canada said: "This third case considerably strengthens the inference that transfusion transmission is possible and suggests that the causative prion can be efficiently transmitted via this route."

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6217296.stm>

27. *December 08, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — Donors pledge \$475 million for global avian flu fight. International donors at a conference in Mali Friday, December 8, pledged \$475 million to battle H5N1 avian influenza, according to the United

Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The pledges came on the last day of a three-day conference in Bamako, Mali. The pledged funds will add to about \$600 million in loans and credit that is still in the pipeline from a January conference in Beijing, where donors pledged a total of \$1.9 billion.

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/dec0806meeting.html>

28. *December 08, Medford Transcript (MA)* — Whooping cough cases confirmed at Massachusetts high school. With six reported cases of whooping cough confirmed at Medford, MA, High School last week, school officials are asking parents to keep a close eye on their kids. Eileen DiBattista, supervisor of health services, said at least three dozen or more students have been identified as having possibly come into contact with the illness, and those students have been asked to seek out a doctor to identify possible symptoms.

Source: http://www.townonline.com/medford/homepage/89993688421673687_51

29. *December 07, Day (CT)* — Outbreak of rash among 230 runners is being investigated in Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Public Health is investigating the outbreak of a skin rash among about 230 New England college cross-country runners who participated in an October 28 meet hosted by Connecticut College at Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford. Health officials think the rash is “swimmer's itch” or “clam digger's itch” — cercarial dermatitis or schistosomiasis — which is caused by a water-borne parasite that can penetrate the skin. They have not, however, completed the investigation nor made a definitive diagnosis, said Stephen Mansfield, director of environmental health at the Ledge Light Health District, based in Groton. The runners are thought to have contracted the rash after running through about three feet of standing water on one portion of the course. About 380 runners participated in the race, and more than 60 percent contracted a rash.

Source: <http://www.theday.com/re.aspx?re=4c1fe49f-a163-49b6-92aa-2192be9e2fbd>

30. *December 07, Rice University (TX)* — Protein's tail may be flu virus's Achilles heel. New research from Rice University and the University of Texas (UT) at Austin has revealed a potential new target that drug makers can use to attack several strains of influenza, including those that cause bird flu as well as the common variety that infects millions each flu season. The research, published online Thursday, December 7, by Nature, offers tantalizing evidence of a potential drug target in a flu protein called nucleoprotein, or NP. NP plays a vital role in all strains of influenza A, including Hong Kong flu, Spanish flu and bird flu. The target is NP's long, flexible tail. Biochemists at Rice and UT found that even minor changes to the tail prevented NP from fulfilling one of its roles — linking together into structural columns that the virus uses to transmit copies of itself.

Source: <http://www.media.rice.edu/media/NewsBot.asp?MODE=VIEW&ID=9133&SnID=1587309863>

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Government Sector

31. *December 06, Naperville Sun (IL)* — Incident fuels debate over school location. Even though

the situation at BP's Naperville, IL, campus on Tuesday, December 5, turned out not to be hazardous, the incident fueled the debate over whether a middle school should be built nearby. Wheaton School District 200 wants to build a replacement for Hubble Middle School on Herrick Road. Opponents of the plan have said the site is too close to BP and children could be in danger if something goes wrong at the oil giant's facility. The proposed school site is a half-mile south of the BP campus. "Regardless of what this turns out to be today, this comes with the nature of a petrochemical facility," said Michelle Senatore, founder of Educate 200, a group opposing the plans. "This is a clear reason why you would not want to put children less than half a mile away from this facility." The debate about the site has been going on for months; still, the district is considering a referendum measure in February to fund building the school.

Source: http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/napervillesun/news/161417.6_1_NA06_AMOCO_S2.article

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *December 07, Digital Communities* — New communications center in District of Columbia answers 911 calls within five seconds. Emergency responders can now answer calls for help from residents of Washington, DC, within five seconds with a new integrated phone system. With the new Unified Communications Center, 99.7 percent of emergency calls are answered within five seconds with most calls answered in less than one second. That compares to a national average of about 10 seconds. The new center integrates emergency call centers for District police, fire, rescue, and emergency responders and can handle an estimated 2.65 million calls a year. While the new communications system features improved performance, it also has new capabilities, like caller identification and location information. The new system automatically identifies callers and their location when they place a 911 call, even if they're calling from a wireless device, like a cell phone. This new capability makes it easier to quickly dispatch appropriate personnel to respond to an emergency.

Source: http://www.govtech.net/digitalcommunities/story.php?id=10275_1

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *December 09, New York Times* — Senate passes bill to criminalize pretexting. The Senate passed legislation Friday night, December 8, that would make it a federal crime to obtain a person's telephone records without permission, an act known as pretexting. The measure, which was approved by unanimous consent Friday night and is similar to a bill passed earlier in the House, imposes a fine of up to \$250,000 and imprisonment of up to 10 years for duping telephone companies into divulging the calling records of private individuals. The penalties can go up under special circumstances, like cases involving domestic abuse. Companies convicted under the Senate legislation face fines of up to \$500,000.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/09/business/09pretext.html>

34. *December 08, eWeek* — **ICANN conference bears much fruit.** Internet Corporation For Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) officials ended a week-long marathon of meetings in Brazil on Friday, December 8, that produced a number of results, including ICANN's first ever Regional At Large Organization (RALO), the approval of the three registry agreements and the birth of the dot-asia top level domain. Chief among the week's developments was the birth of the Latin American and Caribbean RALO, which consists of 22 Internet user groups from across the region that have forged a consensus on how to provide individual user input to ICANN. Starting such regional groups is part of ICANN's strategy to receive input from users. Currently, RALOs are being formed in Africa, Asia, Europe and elsewhere around the world. In addition ICANN's board of directors also approved the registry agreements for the dot-biz, dot-org and dot-info top level domains, which include a 10 percent caps on price increases by registry operators. Those at the conference also witnessed the birth of dot-asia as a top level domain when ICANN signed a contract with DotAsia Organization, Ltd.
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2070433.00.asp>
35. *December 08, IDG News Service* — **Microsoft releases Exchange Server 2007.** Microsoft on Friday, December 8, finished development on a new version of its Exchange messaging server a week after the company celebrated its launch alongside significant new releases of the Windows client OS and Microsoft Office. The company said it has shipped Exchange Server 2007 to manufacturing. Customers can sign up for a free evaluation of the software. Additional information and technical resources about the software are available at the Exchange Website and the TechNet Website.
Microsoft Exchange Server 2007:
http://www.microsoft.com/exchange/2007launch/builtinhancements.msp?wt.mc_ID=homepage
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/08/HNexchangeserver_1.html
36. *December 08, IDG News Service* — **Pirates work around Vista's activation feature.** Hackers are distributing a file that they say lets users of the corporate version of Microsoft's Windows Vista operating system get around the software's anti-piracy mechanisms. Windows Vista must be "activated," or authorized by Microsoft, before it will work on a particular machine. To simplify the task of activating many copies of Vista, Microsoft offers corporate users special tools, among them Key Management Service (KMS), which allows a company to run a Microsoft-supplied authorization server on its own network and activate Vista without contacting Microsoft for each copy. The software
Microsoft.Windows.Vista.Local.Activation.Server-MelindaGates lets users spoof that KMS process, allowing them to activate copies of the enterprise editions of Vista, its creators say. The hacked download is available online on sites including The Pirate Bay and other file sharing sites.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/08/HNpiratesworkaroundvista_1.html
37. *December 08, IDG News Service* — **Security hole found in Windows Media Player.** Users are being advised to disable a certain type of file in Microsoft's Windows Media Player software following the discovery of a new security hole in the software. The flaw, which affects Windows Media Player versions 9 and 10, could allow a malicious hacker to run unauthorized software on a victim's PC or cause a denial-of-service attack, according to security company FrSIRT, which rated the problem critical in an advisory Thursday, December 7. The flaw is due

to a buffer overflow error that can occur when Windows Media Player is used to run ".asx" media files, according to a warning from eEye Digital Security. Such files open automatically in a Web browser, meaning a hacker would need only to post an infected .asx file in a Webpage and then try to lure users to visit the page, eEye Digital said. An infected file could also be sent via e-mail, in which case users would need to be persuaded to open it.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/08/HNmediaplayerhole_1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	31621 (----), 1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 37384 (----), 4672 (eMule), 1027 (icq), 4207 (vrml-multi-use), 1028 (----), 42689 (----) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: 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/ .	

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

38. December 09, Associated Press — Gunman, three victims dead in Chicago tower. Carrying a cache of weapons into a bustling downtown office, a gunman chained a law firm's doors closed on the 38th floor and fatally shot three people before a police sniper killed him as held a hostage at gunpoint, authorities said. The standoff at the 43-story Citigroup Center, which also houses a train station, sent office workers fleeing and stranded commuters Friday, December 8, as the workweek drew to a close. Neither the victims, all men, nor the gunman were identified. A fourth victim, a woman, was taken to the hospital with a gunshot wound to the foot, but was released Friday night, said Kim Waterman, a Rush University Medical Center spokesperson. People hurried down the escalators and ran from the skyscraper on the west side of downtown. Service on the Metra commuter line was suspended for more than an hour and area buses were diverted while the incident unfolded. Metra spokesperson Judy Pardonnet said all Metra crewmembers had been locked into secure areas before train service resumed just after 5 p.m. CST.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-12-08-chicago-shootings_x.htm

39. December 09, Associated Press — Man planned to blow up Illinois mall. A Muslim convert who authorities say talked about waging violent jihad is in custody after federal agents say he tried to make an unusual trade: two stereo speakers for a 9mm pistol and the grenades he would need to pull off his alleged plot. After being tipped by an acquaintance of Derrick Shareef, the FBI says it taped the 22-year-old planning to use hand grenades to blow garbage cans into clouds of flying shrapnel at the CherryVale shopping mall in Rockford, about 90 miles northwest of Chicago, the Friday before Christmas. "This is a warning to those who disbelieve," he allegedly said. Authorities waited to arrest the man until Wednesday, December 6, when they say he tried to make the trade with an undercover agent in a Rockford parking lot. "He

fixed on a day of December 22nd on Friday ... because it was the Friday before Christmas and thought that would be the highest concentration of shoppers that he could kill and injure," said Robert Grant, the agent in charge of the Chicago FBI office. According to an FBI affidavit, Shareef had been under investigation since September, when he told an acquaintance "he wanted to commit acts of violent jihad against targets in the United States as well as commit other crimes."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-12-08-mall-jihad_x.htm

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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