



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 December 2009

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

**Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks**

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

### Top Stories

- CNN reports that a major snowstorm slammed the East Coast and snarled the busy holiday travel season Saturday as airports shut down runways, rail service slowed, and bus routes were suspended. The Examiner reports that hundreds of thousands of customers in several States lost power during the storm. (See items [1](#) and [18](#))
- According to the Arizona Republic, a strong metallic odor at the Scottsdale Galleria Corporate Center forced the evacuation of about 1,200 office workers and sent 21 people to the hospital with breathing difficulties Friday afternoon. (See item [47](#))

### Fast Jump Menu

#### PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

#### SUSTENANCE AND HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

#### SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

#### 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. *December 21, Examiner* – (National) **Winter Storm to remember across the Mid Atlantic & Northeast.** The major Mid Atlantic/Northeast Winter Storm dumped 1 to 2 feet of snowfall across several States as the storm moved steadily up the East Coast, Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. Thirteen States recorded heavy snowfall

amounts of 10 to 30 inches. States of Emergency were declared in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, and Delaware. Snow Emergencies were declared in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and Boston. Over 55,000 were without power in Western North Carolina. Over 105,000 were without power across Kentucky. 200,000 lost power across Virginia during the storm. 64,000 lost power in West Virginia during the storm. The National Guard assisted with snow removal and emergency assistance and operations in West Virginia.

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-5181-Jackson-Weather-Examiner~y2009m12d21-Winter-Storm-to-remember-across-the-Mid-Atlantic--Northeast-NASA-satellite-image-of-snow-cover>

See item [18](#)

2. *December 20, Associated Press* – (International) **Iraq scores in oil well standoff, investment.** Iraq took back a remote oil well from Iranian forces and tentatively approved a lucrative oil deal with foreign investors in separate steps Sunday toward shoring up its nascent oil industry in the face of still-existing security pitfalls. The peaceful end of the standoff at well No. 4 at the southern al-Fakkah oil field capped a tense weekend between Iraq and Iran. The well, which is not producing oil, sits about 50 yards from the Iran-Iraq border. Both countries claim parts of the oil field, and the border itself is under dispute in some places. The al-Fakkah well is located about 200 miles southeast of Baghdad and has an estimated 1.5 billion barrels in reserves. It is not clear why a group of armed Iranians seized the well the night of December 17, and officials offered differing accounts on whether they were soldiers or civilians acting on their own. Political analysts said Iran appeared to be reasserting its dominance over the area's oil reserves. The incident was just one of the latest security incidents to face Iraq's fledgling oil industry. Up north, an overnight bomb attack outside of Mosul halted pumping on Iraq's largest crude oil export line, the oil ministry spokesman said. It was not immediately clear whether pumping for the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline had restarted Sunday night. The line has been attacked repeatedly by insurgents and can carry more than 400,000 barrels of oil a day.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hwK\\_CSxBxsNuVUEaDuOwmSSCiqGwD9CN7TG82](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hwK_CSxBxsNuVUEaDuOwmSSCiqGwD9CN7TG82)

3. *December 20, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **23 arrested in Australia climate action: activists.** Dozens of protesters shut down the railway line leading to Australia's biggest coal export facility on Sunday, in protest over what they said was the failure of global climate change talks in Copenhagen. Some 40 activists with the environmental group Rising Tide Newcastle stopped a coal train and chained themselves to it and the rail tracks to effectively close the line at Newcastle north of Sydney. "A number of arrests have been made," a police spokesman told AFP. Rising Tide said 23 people were arrested as the protesters were removed from the human blockade, which they said shut down the line for six hours. The group said its action was triggered by the outcome of the UN climate talks in the Danish capital. "The US, Australia, and other wealthy countries wrecked the Copenhagen climate talks," said a protest spokesman. The group said coal exports from Newcastle were Australia's single biggest contribution to the

climate crisis. The Australian Greens leader said the coal industry, a major contributor to the Australian economy, should be prepared for more protests. “We are going to see more protest action against the powerful coal mining lobby, which wants to open more coal mines.”

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g9ZF6dOCkf7E5AxJF2rzS3UIJQxA>

4. *December 19, Associated Press* – (International) **Nigeria militants attack pipeline; break cease-fire.** Militants in the oil-rich Niger Delta said they launched a boat-borne assault on an oil pipeline Saturday, breaking a tenuous cease-fire with the government to raise concerns about the nation’s ailing and absent president. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta said a team of fighters attacked a major pipeline west of Port Harcourt that belonged to either Chevron Corp. or Royal Dutch Shell PLC. A statement from MEND, the main militant group operating in the Delta, said it would consider its October 25 unconditional cease-fire with the Nigerian government void for the next 30 days. A Royal Dutch Shell spokeswoman said the company had no reports of an attack on its facilities. A spokesman for Chevron did not return a call for comment. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9CMENQ80.htm>
  
5. *December 18, WMBB 13 Panama City* – (Florida) **Five people injured in steam accident at Gulf power plant.** Five people were injured in a plant accident at the Gulf Power Lansing Smith steam plant in Southport, Bay County, Florida. They have all been treated and released. According to the plant manager, a pipe carrying high-pressure steam burst. There were five people working in the area: two Gulf Power employees, one Alabama Power employee, an area firefighter, and an instructor. All suffered burns to either their face or chest area. He said the employees were several stories above the rupture, but even with the distance, the 600 degree steam managed to burn them. They immediately evacuated the plant and shut down the unit where the accident happened. He said they will do a complete investigation before they get it up and running again. Source: [http://www.panhandleparade.com/index.php/mbb/article/four\\_people\\_injured\\_in\\_steam\\_accident\\_at\\_gulf\\_power\\_west\\_bay\\_plant/mbb7720432/](http://www.panhandleparade.com/index.php/mbb/article/four_people_injured_in_steam_accident_at_gulf_power_west_bay_plant/mbb7720432/)
  
6. *December 18, Corbin Times Tribune* – (Kentucky) **Coal contractor fined for blast.** The company responsible for a Knox County coal mine blast that sent rock hurtling into a residential area last month has been fined by the state. The November 19 blast, which was reportedly heard up to 2 miles from the mine located along Rapier Hollow Road, shook nearby homes, rattled some area residents, and spawned at least one 911 call that sent the Woodbine Fire Department to the area. The blasting contractor, Maxam Appalachia, was fined \$5,900 following a state investigation, according to documents provided by the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources. The bulk of the fine, or \$5,000, was for flyrock that flew into a residential area, reportedly striking two homes and a vehicle, state officials said. The other three violations against Maxam Appalachia dealt with the airblast and equipment. Fines may also be assessed against Mountainside Coal, the Williamsburg company that operates the surface mine, state officials said. The

investigation found that the blast was oriented toward the nearby residential area, measurements made before the blast may have been incorrect, and that an undetectable seam or jointed area in the rock strata may have contributed to the problem. Mountainside Coal has submitted a blast remediation plan to the state and it has been accepted, officials said. On December 10, the State lifted the blasting ban it had implemented at the mine.

Source: [http://www.thetimestribune.com/local/local\\_story\\_352202339.html](http://www.thetimestribune.com/local/local_story_352202339.html)

7. *December 17, San Angelo Standard-Times* – (Texas) **2 arrested in theft of \$185,000 in tools.** Two San Angelo men are accused of stealing more than \$185,000 worth of oil drill bits, according to an arrest warrant affidavit. Their arrests come at the end of a yearlong investigation into oil field equipment thefts in several Texas counties. Department of Public Safety (DPS) officials investigated the thefts, which are believed to have taken place from January 2008 to July of this year. The two men were both charged with theft of property between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Most of the thefts had occurred on Patterson Drilling rigs in Sutton, Scurry, Crockett, and Reagan counties. A DPS sergeant headed the investigation, which involved several other law enforcement agencies.

Source: <http://www.gosanangelo.com/news/2009/dec/17/2-arrested-in-theft-of-185000-in-tools/>

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

## Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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

## Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

8. *December 21, Day of New London* – (Connecticut) **Electrical fault leads to shutdown of Millstone 3.** The Millstone 3 power plant in Waterford automatically shut down Saturday night when an electrical fault was detected in the nuclear station's main generator. A spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the reactor tripped, according to design, and that all safety systems were fully functional. The NRC started inspecting Unit 3's reactor last week after trapped gas was discovered during a routine plant shutdown in the fall. The special inspection had been continuing just as the problem in Millstone 3's main generator came to light. The two problems do not appear to be related. The NRC spokesman said the plant has been dealing with the problem by releasing steam to reduce residual decay heat from the power-production process. He said the steam is from the plant's non-nuclear section. Millstone 2, he said, remains at full power.

Source: <http://www.theday.com/article/20091221/NWS01/312219908/1044>

9. *December 16, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Oyster Creek nuclear power plant to rerun emergency drill.** In Lacey, the planned restaging for Oyster Creek Generating

Station's remedial emergency planning demonstration will be January 28. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission representative said the demonstration is needed because of a deficiency identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency during the plant's biennial emergency planning exercise October 6. Lack of notification to five of the 17 municipalities within the immediate area of the plant was blamed for the deficiency. The public affairs officer for FEMA Region II said 17 communities were to have been contacted as part of the exercise. "Five were not notified," she confirmed. "Overall, the evaluation team reported that the exercise went well. Unfortunately, a number of the municipalities did not receive notice of the protective action decision," said the acting regional administrator of FEMA. An Oyster Creek spokesman said the plant was not responsible for the notification aspect of the drill.

Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20091216/NEWS/91216130/Oyster-Creek-nuclear-power-plant-to-rerun-emergency-drill>

For another story, see item [32](#)

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

## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

10. *December 20, Nanotech Wire* – (Wisconsin) **Wisconsin cast-metals manufacturing benefits from \$10 million federal grant.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has awarded a \$10.1 million, five-year grant to an interdisciplinary team of researchers led by a University of Wisconsin-Madison Mechanical Engineering professor. The researchers are working to implement nanotechnology into the traditional casting industry, which could yield high-quality aluminum and magnesium nanocomposites in the next five years. The grant is from the NIST Technology Innovation Program, which has announced support for 20 innovative projects in new technologies that address critical national needs. The UW-Madison project, titled "Transformational Casting Technology for Fabrication of Ultra-High Performance Lightweight Aluminum and Magnesium Nanocomposites," will yield a new casting technology for commercial-scale production of aluminum and magnesium matrix nanocomposites. Manufacturers are increasingly turning to lightweight aluminum and magnesium alloys, which have better performance and energy efficiency than iron and steel. The lighter alloys can be reinforced with nanoparticles, usually ceramic, which significantly enhance the material properties. However, because nanoparticles are difficult to disperse evenly in materials, their use in the casting industry is not widespread.

Source: <http://nanotechwire.com/news.asp?nid=9158>

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

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

11. *December 20, Stars and Stripes* – (National) **Army testing new camouflage.** Soldiers heading to Afghanistan could soon be issued new combat uniforms that would offer better camouflage based on their operating environments. Two 4th Infantry Division

battalions are wear-testing new uniforms in eastern Afghanistan right now, according to a project manager for soldier protection and individual equipment at Project Executive Office Soldier. And a decision could be made by early February to field new uniforms to all soldiers heading downrange.

Source: <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=66778>

12. *December 18, Bloomberg* – (National) **Lockheed may add Navy F-35 jet to limit delays.** Lockheed Martin Corp. may add an aircraft-carrier model to a group of F-35 test planes as the company works to limit delays on the fighter jets to six months or less instead of the two-plus years expected by the Pentagon. “We could add a 20th jet,” the company’s vice president and program manager said in an interview Thursday in Fort Worth, Texas, where the planes are assembled. The extra Navy test plane would allow the company and the U.S. military to do “parallel testing with more assets so you don’t extend” the schedule, he said. Lockheed would forego some of its unearned award fees in exchange for the additional aircraft. A recent independent estimate commissioned by the Pentagon substantially agreed with a study from last year that predicted a 2 1/2 year delay in development beyond the current target of October 2014 and an additional cost of \$16.5 billion. The Joint Strike Fighter is already the Pentagon’s most expensive weapons program, with an estimated cost of \$298 billion in 2007. The plan is to build at least 2,456 of the aircraft with common parts for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps by 2034.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=asgKVyji461s>

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

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

13. *December 19, Bank Info Security* – (National) **Seven banks closed on Dec. 18.** Seven banks were closed by state and federal regulators on Friday, December 18, including four institutions of more than \$1 billion in assets under management. The largest of the failures was First Federal Bank of California, a \$6.1 billion bank, which subsequently was taken over by OneWest Bank of Pasadena, California. Three of the banks — RockBridge Commercial Bank, Atlanta, Georgia; Citizens State Bank, New Baltimore, Minnesota.; and Independent Bankers’ Bank, Springfield, Illinois — were closed without being acquired by other institutions. The other three institutions were Peoples First Community Bank, Panama City, Florida; New South Federal Savings Bank, Irondale, Alabama; and Imperial Capital Bank, La Jolla, California. In all, there now have been 170 failed institutions in 2009 — 140 banks and 30 credit unions.
- Source: [http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art\\_id=2018&pg=1](http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2018&pg=1)
14. *December 19, Associated Press* – (New York) **New York man charged in \$35 million Ponzi scheme.** Federal authorities say an upstate New York businessman has been charged with bilking oil and natural gas investors in a six-year Ponzi scheme that took in an estimated \$35 million. An assistant U.S. Attorney says that the 71-year-old suspect is believed to have returned \$30 million to \$31 million to keep the scheme going from April 2003 to March 2009. He says the suspect pocketed the remainder. The suspect pleaded not guilty on December 17 to fraud and money laundering. A judge gave his

lawyer two months to review evidence seized by authorities. The FBI and the Internal Revenue Service have been investigating the suspect's business dealings for more than a year. They say many of the 320-plus investors lived in western New York.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ijXM\\_4RYD0EtWgVg1h0\\_9LmiYdYgD9CM01TG1](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ijXM_4RYD0EtWgVg1h0_9LmiYdYgD9CM01TG1)

15. *December 18, KIVI 6 Boise* – (Idaho) **Fraudulent bank alerts.** Thousands of emails and text messages are being sent out to Idahoans telling them their bank accounts are frozen, and it sends the customer a link to their bank's Web site. "This is a very sophisticated operation. The website you go to looks like the real one but it's not, it's masked," said the deputy attorney general of Idaho. The Better Business Bureau says at least 100 people from Eastern Idaho have become victim to this phishing scam. A customer can tell the Web site is not real because it will not have the correct Web address. A danger exists when the link is clicked on. "It's going to load software on your computer, it's going to scan your computer for your sensitive information, your bank account number, your password and it'll watch you as you work and report that information to the scam artist," said a spokesman from the Better Business Bureau.

Source: <http://www.kivitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11703072>

16. *December 16, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (National) **Troubled Asset Relief Program: The U.S. government role as shareholder in AIG, Citigroup, Chrysler, and General Motors and preliminary views on its investment management activities.** The recent financial crisis resulted in a wide-ranging federal response that included infusing capital into several major corporations. The Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) has been the primary vehicle for most of these actions. As a result of actions and others, the government is a shareholder in the American International Group (AIG), Citigroup Inc. (Citi), Chrysler Group LLC (Chrysler), and General Motors Company (GM), among others. As market conditions have become less volatile, the government has been considering how best to manage these investments and ultimately divest them. The testimony discusses the government's approach to past crisis and challenges unique to the current crisis; the principles guiding the Department of the Treasury's implementation of its authorities and mechanisms for managing its investments; and the preliminary views from GAO's ongoing work with the Special Inspector General for TARP on the federal government's monitoring and management of its investments. This statement builds on GAO's work since the 1970s on providing government assistance to large corporations and more recent work on oversight of the assistance and investments provided under TARP. In its November 2009 report, GAO recommended that Treasury ensure it has expertise needed to monitor its investment in Chrysler and GM and that it has a plan for evaluating the optimal method and timing for divesting this equity.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-325T>

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

## **Transportation Sector**

17. *December 21, North Central Illinois News Tribune* – (Illinois) **Freight train derails; Amtrak disrupted.** A freight train derailment Saturday night sent four rail cars down a steep embankment, put three into West Bureau Creek, and left another standing vertically from the ground to the top of a trestle east of Wyanet, Illinois. The derailment caused Amtrak to reroute passengers by buses Sunday, with the same plan in place Monday for the passenger service, as cleanup, debris removal, and track repair continues. There are two sets of track at the bridge, but the damage forced passenger and freight traffic to be rerouted. Fort Worth, Texas-based Burlington Northern Santa Fe anticipates having the line reopened by late afternoon Monday. Amtrak set up a “bus bridge” for the Chicago-to-Quincy routes; for the Illinois Zephyr and California Zephyr, Amtrak set up a detour around Naperville, Mendota, and Princeton, adding only 32 minutes to the route for those long-distance trains, said an Amtrak spokeswoman. “One had a load of plastic pellets and some leaked into the creek. Plastic pellets are not a hazard,” a spokesperson said.

Source:

<http://www.newstrib.com/articles/news/nci/default.asp?article=E76240F0377FD4E26AE4C275BB7E0ED4E284BDBC9AD3C75A>

18. *December 20, CNN* – (National) **Record snow continues to fall as deadly East Coast storm lingers.** A major snowstorm slammed the East Coast and snarled the busy holiday travel season Saturday as airports shut down runways, rail service slowed, and bus routes were suspended on the last weekend before Christmas. Record snowfall totals were reported Saturday afternoon at Washington Dulles and Reagan National airports. Accumulation at Dulles reached 16 inches, breaking the old record of 10.6 inches set December, 12, 1964; 13.3 inches was reported at Reagan. The old record there was 11.5 inches set December 17, 1932. Three deaths in Virginia were blamed on the storm, state officials said. One person was killed late Friday in a single-car crash. Two other deaths were reported Saturday as more heavy snow was expected. The Virginia Governor authorized up to 1,000 National Guardsmen to assist in responding to the storm, which dumped more than 20 inches of snow in parts of the state by Saturday evening. Virginia State Police had responded to nearly 3,000 accidents or disabled vehicles since Friday night, the governor’s office said. The storm stretched from Tennessee and North Carolina to the southern New England states, blanketing the mid-Atlantic region and the heavily populated I-95 corridor.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/US/weather/12/19/winter.weather/>

See item [1](#)

19. *December 19, News 8 Austin and Associated Press* – (Texas) **Threatening note prompts evacuation of AA jet at ABIA.** Transportation Security Administration (TSA) authorities say nothing suspicious was found after a sweep of an American Airlines jet Friday afternoon. The plane had pulled away from the gate at Austin Bergstrom International Airport when a passenger found a threatening note. About 129 people were on the flight, which was headed to Chicago. A TSA spokeswoman said passengers, their baggage, and the aircraft were rescreened Friday with “no findings of any prohibited item.” Airport officials say the note was discovered in a bathroom aboard the aircraft. Officials did not divulge the content of the note. Passengers were questioned,

rescreened, and then put back on the same airplane. The FBI is investigating.

Source: [http://www.news8austin.com/content/your\\_news/default.asp?ArID=261609](http://www.news8austin.com/content/your_news/default.asp?ArID=261609)

20. *December 18, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **TSA tests capability of nuclear-detection devices at DIA.** Teams of federal security officers that routinely patrol transportation venues to combat possible terrorist threats have added the capability of detecting nuclear materials that might be part of a so-called dirty bomb, Homeland Security officials say. On Thursday, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) completed a three-day exercise at Denver International Airport (DIA) aimed at training the agency’s “VIPR” teams in the use of nuclear and radiological detection equipment, said the assistant to the special agent in charge of the Federal Air Marshal Service’s Denver field office. VIPR stands for Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response units — groups of officers TSA has assembled to patrol aviation, rail, and marine facilities nationwide as a counterterrorism measure. The drill completed at DIA on Thursday included training on three pieces of Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection equipment, the assistant said. One is a “mini” device about the size of a pager or PDA that can be worn on a belt. A second is a hand-held “radioactive isotope identification device” that can be directed by an agent at a potential radiological source. The third piece of equipment that officers will use is a radiation detection backpack. Officers can use the equipment openly at stationary positions, as they were doing at DIA on Thursday — screening passengers at one sixth-level entrance to the terminal — or they can carry some of the devices covertly as they move about the airport or other facilities, officials said.

Source: [http://www.denverpost.com/newsheadlines/ci\\_14022529](http://www.denverpost.com/newsheadlines/ci_14022529)

21. *December 18, ABC News* – (National) **Terrorists, crooks allowed to keep FAA pilot’s licenses.** A bipartisan group of U.S. Senators has asked the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Inspector General to investigate why suspect individuals — including terrorists and drug kingpins — have been able to retain their Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) pilot’s licenses. In a letter to the DHS Inspector General, the Senators cited media reports, including an ABC News investigation, that questioned the ability of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to purge the FAA’s aviation list of individuals posing a threat to transportation security. In one high-profile case reported by the Blotter, a well-known drug boss was able to keep his U.S. aviation license despite being on a “black list” of foreign drug kingpins since 2004. The Blotter also reported the names of two other men tied to drug trafficking and two convicted arms traffickers who still had their licenses as of October. The New York Times revealed that individuals charged or convicted of terrorism-related crimes were also able to retain their FAA licenses. While some of the individuals named in the ABC News and Times reports have since been stripped of their licenses, others have not, according to Safe Banking Systems, the New York computer security firm that first uncovered the suspect cases.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/terrorists-crooks-faa-pilots-licenses/story?id=9363727&page=1>

For more stories, see items [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), and [32](#)

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

## Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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

## Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *December 18, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **Plugging path of Asian carp urged.** The once-radical idea of somehow plugging the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to stop the flow of unwanted species from spilling between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basin is quickly picking up political support. On Friday, a bipartisan group of 50 members of Congress representing the Great Lakes States fired off a letter to the bosses of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency, urging them to “immediately consider” re-establishing the natural hydrologic separation between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basin. “There may be no greater threat to the ecosystem of the Great Lakes than the introduction of the Asian carp, and we must do all that we can to prevent this from happening,” the coalition wrote to those two agencies and to the heads of the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/79646167.html>

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

## Water Sector

23. *December 18, WBOC 16 Salisbury* – (Maryland) **Wastewater treatment plant burglarized in Cambridge.** Cambridge, Maryland police say thousands of dollars worth of tools, as well as a boat, were stolen during a break-in of the Maryland Environmental Services wastewater treatment facility. Police say that on December 14, officers responded to a reported burglary that occurred at the facility located on Roslyn Avenue. Police learned that unknown suspects entered the property by forcing open a locked gate. Once inside, the suspect or suspects forced entry into a maintenance warehouse and removed numerous tools valued at several thousand dollars. The suspects also broke into three trucks on the property and attempted to start them, causing extensive damage to the ignition systems. It was also determined that a 14-foot Lewes Jon boat, valued at approximately \$2,500, was stolen from the facility.

Source: <http://www.wboc.com/Global/story.asp?S=11685788>

24. *December 18, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **EPA releases first-ever baseline study of U.S. lakes.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on December 18 released its most comprehensive study of the nation’s lakes to date. The draft study, which rated the condition of 56 percent of the lakes in the United States as good and the remainder as fair or poor, marked the first time EPA and its partners used a nationally consistent approach to survey the ecological and water quality of lakes. A total of 1,028 lakes were randomly sampled during 2007 by states, tribes, and EPA. The [National Lakes Assessment](#) reveals that the remaining lakes are in fair or poor condition.

Degraded lakeshore habitat, rated “poor” in 36 percent of lakes, was the most significant of the problems assessed. Removal of trees and shrubs and construction of docks, marinas, homes, and other structures along shorelines all contribute to degraded lakeshore habitat. Nitrogen and phosphorous are found at high levels in 20 percent of lakes. Excess levels of these nutrients contribute to algae blooms, weed growth, reduced water clarity, and other lake problems. EPA is very concerned about the adverse impacts of nutrients on aquatic life, drinking water, and recreation.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/C6CDF574A96FD7A18525768F0059281D>

25. *December 17, NY1 New York* – (New York) **City water costs could soar due to natural gas drilling.** New Yorkers could see their water rates rise more than 170 percent if state officials allow companies to drill for natural gas in the Catskills. The drilling would take place at the Catskill-Delaware Watershed, where New York City receives more than 90 percent of its water. Environmentalists are concerned about potential contamination of the water from chemicals used in drilling. If chemicals from drilling run off into the water, the city would be forced to build its own filtration plant at costs of more than \$6 billion. The city’s Independent Budget Office (IBO) projects water rates for a single family home would jump \$367 a year during the 10-year construction period. IBO officials say water bills would still increase by lower levels without the new filtration plant. The city has already committed nearly \$338 million to protect the Catskill watershed.

Source: [http://ny1.com/5-manhattan-news-content/news\\_beats/politics/110657/city-water-costs-could-soar-due-to-natural-gas-drilling/](http://ny1.com/5-manhattan-news-content/news_beats/politics/110657/city-water-costs-could-soar-due-to-natural-gas-drilling/)

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

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

26. *December 21, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Agencies fail to contribute to biosurveillance.** Federal agencies are not properly working together to share data and personnel for the early detection of biological threats in the United States, congressional investigators recently determined. The National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC) at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does not have the resources to carry out its primary mission of detecting disease outbreaks and other threats because its partner agencies have not provided it with the necessary data or personnel, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) said in its report *Biosurveillance: Developing a Collaboration Strategy Is Essential to Fostering Interagency Data and Resource Sharing*. NBIC’s interagency partners must provide it with analytical expertise and supply information technologies for data collection, analysis, and expertise, as required by federal law. “However, NBIC does not receive the kind of data it has identified as most critical for supporting its early detection mission — particularly, data generated at the earliest stages of an event,” the GAO report stated. “In addition, NBIC has faced challenges leveraging the expertise of its federal partners.”

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/11533/128/>

27. *December 21, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Missouri) **Spark near oxygen gear is**

**suspected in hospital fire.** Something that caused a spark near oxygen equipment is suspected of igniting a fire Saturday night in a third-floor patient room at Kindred Hospital in south St. Louis County. Neither the patient nor anyone else was injured directly, officials said, although one employee was treated for an asthma attack. The two-alarm blaze began about 9 p.m. in the long-term care facility on the campus of St. Anthony's Medical Center, said the deputy chief of the Meville Fire Protection District. The blaze was contained to the one room. Initially, the chief was told by hospital personnel that 94 patients would need to be moved from the three-story facility by bus. "We called (Metro) and were in process of doing that when they realized they could just move them to a part of the building that put them behind fire and smoke partitions," he said.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/laworder/story/391AC8C0FD331EF186257693001AB4DD?OpenDocument>

28. *December 20, Ogden Standard-Examiner* – (Utah) **Holiday party goes on in Ogden after fumes hit.** A dangerous chemical reaction sent eight employees of an Ogden, Utah manufacturing plant to the hospital Sunday morning. The remaining 45 workers at Pro Pac Labs were evacuated and many were later sent home until a hazardous materials crew was able to walk through the facility nearly two hours after the accident, which occurred just after 7 a.m. The employees who were hospitalized were in good condition and were expected to be treated and released, according to a plant official. Fire officials said workers were using bleach to clean manufacturing equipment in an enclosed room in the back part of the building when a small amount of residue left from other products on the equipment had an adverse reaction with the bleach, creating an ammonia gas, said a fire deputy. Employees complained of burning in their chest, nose, and mouth. Pro Pac Labs manufactures vitamin and mineral supplements.

Source: <http://www.standard.net/topics/safety/2009/12/18/holiday-party-goes-ogden-after-fumes-hit>

29. *December 20, Bay City News Service* – (California) **Two-alarm fire at Fremont assisted living facility injures three.** A two-alarm fire at the Fremont Hills Assisted Living and Memory Care assisted living facility in Fremont, California Sunday injured three people and caused about \$6,000 in damage, according to fire officials. The facility housed about 75 people, who were evacuated while crews began fighting the blaze. The fire was under control about an hour after it started, according to fire officials. The blaze hospitalized two people, one for smoke inhalation and the other for injuries she suffered from falling while evacuating. A staff member at the facility was treated for smoke inhalation but did not have to be transported to the hospital, fire officials said.

Source: [http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci\\_14038835](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci_14038835)

30. *December 19, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **Investigation delayed in Northfield medical-office blaze.** A search for the cause of the fire that destroyed a large section of a medical office building is on hold due to the snowstorm, but Northfield, New Jersey's fire chief blamed faulty 1970s construction design for the fire's second wind after it was initially thought to be under control. The fire at the Mainland Medical

Center, which was first reported at about 4:15 p.m. Friday, was slowly brought under control over the course of the evening, and by 9:30 to 10 p.m. was mostly contained to small, smoldering areas. Of the approximately 70 firefighters from six different companies who battled the fire, there were no reported injuries.

Source: [http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/breaking/article\\_24a936f2-ecff-11de-86ac-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/breaking/article_24a936f2-ecff-11de-86ac-001cc4c03286.html)

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

## **Government Facilities Sector**

31. *December 18, WJSV 28 South Bend* – (Indiana) **St. Joseph County Sheriff upset over Penn bomb threats.** A threat made by a Penn High School student is setting off alarms with police. The St. Joseph County Sheriff says the school's administration is sweeping a recent bomb threat under the rug and they say this is not the first time. Police say earlier the week of December 14, an officer was informed by the school's principal that a bomb threat note had been found on December 10 in a boy's bathroom. Police say it is the same student that made a similar threat back in October. The debate stirring between the Sheriff's department and the school is whether or not the resource officer was asked to not write a police report. The officer said that he met with school officials, who asked him not to write a police report about the incident. However, school administrators say this is not true. The Sheriff says the student was suspended after the first threat and sent to an alternative school. A psychological report was done, saying the student was not a threat to anyone. He was allowed back into Penn. The Sheriff says he is expected to be expelled. The school has not confirmed any of this yet.

Source: <http://www.fox28.com/Global/story.asp?S=11703042>

32. *December 18, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S., Utah Governor reach uranium deal.** The Department of Energy said Thursday that it has struck a deal with the Governor of Utah that would prohibit radioactive waste from South Carolina from being permanently buried in Utah until stricter state guidelines are put in place. The Governor had called on the Department to stop a train loaded with depleted uranium from leaving the Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina. The material is waste from the development of nuclear weapons in the Cold War era. State regulators say they need more time to determine whether depleted uranium can safely be disposed of at EnergySolutions Inc.'s site about 70 miles west of Salt Lake City. Depleted uranium is different from other waste disposed there because it becomes more radioactive over time, for up to 1 million years. The first train, carrying 5,408 55-gallon drums of waste, will not be stopped or turned around, the DOE spokeswoman said. But the DOE agreed to place its waste in temporary storage once it arrives in Utah, rather than permanently disposing of it. She said Utah regulators will have two months to develop new guidelines for disposing of the material.

Source:

<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20091218/BUSINESS/912180332/1003/rss05>

33. *December 17, Lehigh Valley Live* – (Pennsylvania; District of Columbia) **Berks County**

**man who allegedly made threats toward the White House is getting out of jail.** A 60-year-old Berks County man who in November threatened to take a machine gun to the White House was released from prison on December 17. “If you act out in any way, you’ll be back in jail so fast your head will spin,” the judge in his case told him. The man was arrested November 12 after he made threats toward the White House because he was frustrated with his veteran’s benefits, records say. The man was arrested and charged with harassment, disorderly conduct, and making terroristic threats.

Source: [http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/slate-belt/index.ssf/2009/12/berks\\_county\\_man\\_who\\_allegedly.html](http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/slate-belt/index.ssf/2009/12/berks_county_man_who_allegedly.html)

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

## **Emergency Services Sector**

34. *December 2009, Signal Magazine* – (National) **A little brain music goes a long way.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is examining an existing biofeedback technology to help first responders work better on long, round-the-clock disaster relief efforts. According to the deputy director of DHS’s Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency, brain music therapy has been in use since the early 1990s and is currently used to treat medical conditions such as insomnia. He explains that DHS wanted to examine its use in a job-related application. Long, irregular work shifts can affect first responders’ natural sleep cycles, leading to fatigue and stress. The therapy is designed to sharpen first responders’ reactions during an emergency and to calm them afterward. According to DHS, the therapy is clinically proven to promote one of two mental states in a person: relaxation for reduced stress and improved sleep, and alertness for enhanced concentration and decision making. The brain therapy is part of DHS’s Readiness Optimization Program, an overall wellness effort combining nutrition education and neurotraining to improve the performance of first responders and federal agents.

Source:

[http://www.afcea.org/signal/articles/templates/SIGNAL\\_Article\\_Template.asp?articleid=2152&zoneid=280](http://www.afcea.org/signal/articles/templates/SIGNAL_Article_Template.asp?articleid=2152&zoneid=280)

35. *December 21, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Report crimes online, in Spanish.** Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department’s online crime reporting forms are now available in Spanish. This upgrade to the six-year-old system has the potential to double the 4,000 crime reports filed annually from computers, said the Crime Reporting Unit manager. System upgrades introduced last week also offer subtle improvements to the forms in English. The system now sends an alert for addresses not found in its database. Less detailed information is required to complete some text fields. Improvements to the online reporting system could give officers more time for crime prevention and crimes in progress.

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/local/story/1136631.html>

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

## Information Technology

36. *December 21, The Register* – (International) **Twitter hack linked to internal security breach.** Twitter’s login credentials were used to make DNS changes that redirected surfers to a protest site on December 18, according to site administrators. Surfers visiting the micro-blogging Web site for about an hour early on Friday morning were instead redirected to a page on another site, boasting that Twitter had been “pwned” by a previously unknown group called the Iranian Cyber Army. Twitter acknowledged its DNS records “were temporarily compromised” in a status page update, without going into the specifics of the hack. However, security experts involved in maintaining the site said Twitter’s own login credentials were used in the attack. The chief technology officer at Dyn told Wired that attackers used a “set of valid Twitter credentials” to change DNS setting and redirect surfers.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/21/twitter\\_dns\\_hack\\_follow\\_up/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/21/twitter_dns_hack_follow_up/)

37. *December 18, Government Computer News* – (International) **Office 2010 takes aim at malware threats.** Microsoft described a security feature in Office 2010 designed to block malware associated with older Office binary file formats. The feature, called “Office file validation,” checks to see if a binary file used by Office applications such as Word, PowerPoint and Excel (with .DOC, .PPT and .XLS extensions) is a trusted document or stored in a trusted location. If not, the file will get protected in a sandbox, or “protected view,” which will limit the file’s access to system resources, according to a member of Microsoft’s Office security team, in a blog post on December 16. The new Office file validation feature extends concepts from an earlier Microsoft security tool called “MOICE,” or Microsoft Office Isolated Conversion Environment, according to the CTO of Qualys. “Office documents received by e-mail or downloaded through the Internet are opened in a protected environment, a ‘sandbox,’ and if the document attempts to modify the underlying operating system, it is blocked by the sandbox,” the CTO explained in an e-mail. “If the user wants to edit and save the document, he has to press an ‘enable editing’ button to retrieve the document from the sandbox.”

Source: <http://gcn.com/Articles/2009/12/18/Microsoft-Office-2010-malware.aspx>

For more stories, see items [41](#) and [42](#)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto: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

38. *December 21, Telegraph* – (International) **O2 network crashes for iPhone users.** Some

users have been unable to access the Internet on their Apple phone, making many of the popular applications redundant. Users trying to access applications or the Internet were met with the message: “Could not activate cellular data network.” O2 would not say how many of its customers have been affected, but it is understood a large chunk of its more than a million users have been having a problem since Saturday.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/mobile-phones/6858249/O2-network-crashes-for-iPhone-users.html>

39. *December 18, PC World* – (National) **Operation Chokehold fails as it succeeds (and vice versa)**. Operation Chokehold, the coordinated attack on AT&T’s wireless network, was both a success and failure on Friday. The success was in further highlighting the complaints of iPhone users against the carrier; the failure was that it did not appear to have much effect on the AT&T network.

Source:

[http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/185143/operation\\_chokehold\\_fails\\_as\\_it\\_succeeds\\_and\\_vice\\_versa.html](http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/185143/operation_chokehold_fails_as_it_succeeds_and_vice_versa.html)

40. *December 18, Softpedia* – (National) **T-Mobile USA users hit by network outage again**. Another network outage has hit users of Mobile phone carrier T-Mobile USA. The wireless services provider acknowledged the issue, stating that its network in Southeastern United States and Puerto Rico was the one affected. The outage this time is of a lesser magnitude than last month’s one. Following the aforementioned forum statement, the company stepped up and announced that it managed to restore the service to almost all of its users. “Some T-Mobile customers in the Southeastern United States and Puerto Rico experienced intermittent service degradation for voice and data services earlier today. T-Mobile has identified the equipment malfunction and service has been restored for the majority of customers. Some customers in Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia may still be experiencing service disruptions while T-Mobile continues to work to restore service as quickly as possible. Again, we apologize for any inconvenience to impacted customers in the region,” the operator noted.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/T-Mobile-USA-Users-Hit-by-Network-Outage-Again-130137.shtml>

41. *December 18, BBC News* – (International) **Chinese proposal to meter Internet traffic**. China wants to meter all Internet traffic that passes through its borders. The move would require international agreement — but it is being discussed by the United Nations body in charge of Internet standards. It would allow countries which currently receive no payment for use of their lines to generate income. But a European Union cyber security expert has warned the plan could threaten the stability of the entire Internet. In later comments to BBC News, a member of the European Commission suggested that technical changes needed to charge everyone for Internet traffic flowing through China could undermine the Web’s founding principle of openness as well as raising security and stability concerns for all net users.

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/politics/8417680.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/8417680.stm)

42. *December 18, TechCrunch* – (International) **Rackspace goes down. Again. Takes the**

**Internet with it. Again.** Rackspace had a complete and total failure on December 18 that took down a number of big sites on the Internet, including TechCrunch. This has been happening all too often in recent months, including downtime just last month. The failure apparently originated in the company's Dallas-area server farm. But unlike previous times, this does not appear to be a power issue, the company says. Some other sites that are currently affected include: 37signals, Brizzly, Scoble's blog, all of the sites hosted by Laughing Squid, Tumblr custom domains, and many others. This is another black eye for the company, though they are generally responsive with other issues. But until they can prove to be more reliable, TechCrunch decided to get a backup version of the site up and running at another data center.

Source: [http://www.techcrunch.com/2009/12/18/rackspace-down/?awesm=27XFP&utm\\_medium=awe.sm-twitter&utm\\_source=direct-awe.sm&utm\\_content=twitterfeed](http://www.techcrunch.com/2009/12/18/rackspace-down/?awesm=27XFP&utm_medium=awe.sm-twitter&utm_source=direct-awe.sm&utm_content=twitterfeed)

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

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

43. *December 20, Associated Press* – (New York) **NYC's flagship Macy's store reopens after fire.** Hundreds of holiday shoppers were evacuated from the flagship Macy's store at Herald Square in New York on Sunday after a fire in an escalator spread smoke through the building. The fire occurred in an escalator between the third and fourth floors, said a Macy's spokeswoman. The sirens of numerous police and fire trucks on 34th Street blared long after the fire was reported at 4 p.m. on one of the busiest shopping days of the year. The smoke was so heavy at one point that passers-by on the street could smell it. Outside the building, a police officer announced to prospective customers after 5 p.m. that Macy's had closed. It reopened within an hour and will remain open until midnight, the spokeswoman said. No injuries were reported.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iE6Ojs4PBQGxxbU\\_De\\_suoW\\_P86rwD9CNC9N01](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iE6Ojs4PBQGxxbU_De_suoW_P86rwD9CNC9N01)

44. *December 20, Cape Coral Daily Breeze* – (Florida) **Wal-Mart reopens after evacuation closes store for two hours.** A Wal-Mart store on Del Prado Boulevard in Cape Coral, Florida re-opened after an evacuation closed the store for two hours Sunday afternoon when an unidentified person entered and allegedly threw a white powdery substance at an employee. Fears of a Haz-Mat situation prompted store and Cape Coral fire officials to evacuate what one witness said were "hundreds" of shoppers. The city's spokeswoman said they let shoppers back into the store around 3 p.m., after the white powder substance was discovered to be non-hazardous. Cape Coral Police did not have a suspect in custody as of Sunday. An investigation into the incident is continuing.

Source: <http://www.cape-coral-daily-breeze.com/page/content.detail/id/513618.html?nav=5011>

45. *December 20, United Press International* – (International) **London firms told to prepare for attack.** Scotland Yard says London is at risk of a commando-style raid similar to the one in Mumbai, where terrorists occupied hotels and killed hostages.

“Mumbai is coming to London,” a senior detective said in a security forum covered by the Sunday Times of London. Terrorist “chatter” captured by intelligence agencies has increased in recent weeks, leading police to believe there is a definite plot to attack London, the Times reported. Hotels and other firms should prepare for a raid “involving a small number of gunmen with handguns and improvised explosive devices,” said the detective, who was not identified by the Times. The threat is “very real,” confirmed the head of the House of Commons counter-terrorism sub-committee.

Source: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/International/2009/12/20/London-firms-told-to-prepare-for-attack/UPI-62631261323416/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/International/2009/12/20/London-firms-told-to-prepare-for-attack/UPI-62631261323416/)

46. *December 19, KING 5 Seattle* – (Washington) **Federal Way store evacuated because of suspicious package.** A Home Depot store in Federal Way in Seattle, Washington was evacuated for a couple of hours Saturday because a suspicious device was found. Employees found the tubular device with a fuse coming out of it near one of the store’s entrances. Bomb technicians used a robot to move the device around to the side of the building, then disrupted it. “The store was evacuated for precautionary reasons, nobody’s been harmed, nothing has been damaged, and the device, whatever it was, has been rendered inoperable,” said a police commander. Police say the device could possibly have been put together with items purchased at the store. Ninety employees were evacuated, as well as a store full of shoppers.

Source: <http://www.king5.com/home/Federal-Way-store-evacuated-because-of-suspicious-package-79726362.html>

47. *December 18, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Unknown fumes overcome Scottsdale Galleria offices, prompt evacuation.** A strong metallic odor at the Scottsdale Galleria Corporate Center forced the evacuation of about 1,200 office workers and sent 21 people to the hospital with breathing difficulties Friday afternoon. As of late Friday, Scottsdale Fire Department investigators had not yet identified the source or cause of the odor, but industrial hygienists and building engineers were scheduled to enter the building during the evening, said a fire spokeswoman. Thirteen people were transported to Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn as a precaution after complaining of feeling ill. Eight others drove themselves to the hospital and two refused treatment. Scottsdale fire crews first responded to a 911 call of a bad odor at the Galleria at about 3 p.m. Friday. The caller reported that some people had trouble breathing and were feeling sick. The Scottsdale Visitor and Convention Bureau is among the tenants housed in the former mall that years ago was converted into office space and call centers. Bureau workers stood outside for about an hour before they were told to finally go home, said a bureau spokeswoman. They were not let back into the building.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/12/18/20091218sr-galleria.html>

48. *December 18, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Maps show where tsunami floods would hit State.** When major earthquakes strike along the Aleutian island chain in Alaska, they could trigger tsunamis sweeping down along the California coast and threatening many low-lying regions with disaster, including parts of San Francisco. The danger has long been known, but Thursday a team of State scientists and emergency management specialists announced they have completed an updated series of 135

“inundation maps” covering shoreline areas in the State’s 30 coastal counties and every harbor and inlet that could be threatened. The maps reveal in detail just how far large tsunamis might send ocean waters rushing inland to threaten beaches and coastal towns. They also indicate evacuation routes that lead to higher ground. The maps are being released online December 18 by the California Emergency Management Agency. The maps show that a major tsunami generated by the largest conceivable Alaskan quake might cause waves to run 19 feet up on the shores of San Francisco’s perimeter neighborhoods, covering portions of the Marina district and the Embarcadero, for example. The director of San Francisco’s Department of Emergency Management said her department has begun distributing printed doorknob hangers in English and Chinese, headlined “Be Tsunami Ready” and displaying a map of the city’s western tsunami inundation zone that covers all of Ocean Beach east to 46th avenue, the zoo, and all of Lake Merced. The State’s new inundation maps can be viewed at [www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs).

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/12/18/MN8B1B63UG.DTL#ixzz0aL8E9fVP>

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

## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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

## **Dams Sector**

49. *December 21, AnnArbor.com* – (Michigan) **New study concludes no threat of failure at Ann Arbor’s Argo Dam.** The Ann Arbor City Council just received [61 pages](#) of new scientific data on Argo Dam that could help the city in its fight against the State of Michigan. The findings of a much anticipated report on the stability of Argo Dam’s headrace embankment were released late last week to council members. The report comes as they consider the future of Argo Dam and what to do about a safety order from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The city hired Soil and Materials Engineers Inc. (SME) of Plymouth to do the evaluation of the dam. SME concluded that — under current operating conditions — there is no emergency or imminent threat that the dam’s headrace embankment will suffer a catastrophic failure. The SME report also indicates there is no immediate need to dewater or cease using the headrace, a 1,500-foot stretch of water that canoeists and kayakers use to bypass Argo Dam. The headrace is separated from the Huron River by an earthen embankment the DEQ fears could be breached.

Source: <http://www.annarbor.com/news/new-study-concludes-no-threat-of-failure-at-ann-arbors-argo-dam/>

50. *December 18, Seacoastonline.com* – (New Hampshire) **Funding for Exeter’s Great Dam study sought.** The Exeter River Committee is looking for concrete numbers on what a full feasibility study on removing the Great Dam would cost the town. The

committee is hoping these cost estimates will be available for the Board of Selectmen to review and submit as a possible warrant article for 2010. The board will continue its review of the 2010 budget, including warrant articles, on Monday, December 21. Preliminary estimates by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services show the first steps for the study to cost \$40,000 and placed the full cost for the study at \$90,000. The full feasibility study would include evaluating wetlands and invasive species, and determining impacts on structures both upstream and downstream, the impact on recreational use of the river, and the historical impacts of removing the dam. The River Committee has requested participation in the historical review from the town's Heritage Commission, which is interested in providing assistance. If the decision is made to remove the dam, consultants recommend the town conduct a preliminary groundwater system design process in 2010, final design in 2011, and go online with groundwater sources in 2012. The cost to remove the dam is estimated at just under \$1 million. The cost of mitigating dam removal with potential groundwater sources is estimated from \$7 to \$8 million.

Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20091218-NEWS-912180351>

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

## **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

**About the 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>

### **Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions: Send mail to [NICCRports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCRports@dhs.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421

Subscribe to the Distribution List: Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List: Send mail to [support@govdelivery.com](mailto:support@govdelivery.com).

---

### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto: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](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://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.