



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
8 November 2011

Top Stories

- About 80 refrigerated containers have been isolated at the Port of Seattle because they might contain contaminated gas and could explode. – *IFW.com* (See item [15](#))
- Oklahoma residents were shaken by temblors, including the state's strongest earthquake ever, that cracked buildings, buckled a highway, and jolted a college football stadium. – *Associated Press* (See item [43](#))

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Energy Sector

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

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

1. *November 7, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Yellowstone spill to cost Exxon \$135M.** Exxon Mobil Corp. said it expects to incur costs of about \$135 million from an oil pipeline break beneath Montana's Yellowstone River that triggered a massive effort to limit damage to the scenic waterway. The cost figure was released in response to a request from the Associated Press and is more than triple an earlier estimate. It includes for the first time the expense of replacing the section of broken pipeline with a new one buried more deeply beneath the river. Work to remove the damaged pipeline began November 7 and was expected to take several weeks. An Exxon Mobil spokeswoman

declined to release a breakdown of the company's costs, providing only a broad overview of expenses. The original pipeline was buried only a few feet beneath the river. State and federal officials have speculated that summer flooding scoured the riverbed and left the pipe exposed to damaging debris and the force of the rushing river. An investigation into the cause remains pending.

Source: <http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/11/07/yellowstone-spill-to-cost-exxon-135m/>

2. *November 7, Associated Press* – (California) **N. Calif. pipe bursts in test, closes fwy lanes.** A 2-foot-wide section of pipe burst November 6 during a high-pressure water test along the same Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) pipeline in Northern California that had a deadly explosion last year, sending mud, debris, and a pipe cover onto Interstate 280 and shutting down parts of the freeway for several hours, authorities said. The pipe, which sits about 250 feet on a hill above the freeway in Woodside near San Mateo, burst at about 3:20 p.m. and saturated the hillside, the PG&E vice president for gas engineering and operations said. The pipe would normally carry natural gas at a pressure of 300 pounds with a maximum of 400 pounds, he said. Workers were sending water through it at a pressure of 550 pounds. The northbound lanes of I-280 were shut down and slowly reopened as utility crews cleaned up the mess. All lanes were open again about 4 hours later. The burst pipe was about 20 miles south of the section of pipeline in San Bruno that exploded in September 2010, killing eight people, injuring dozens more, and destroying 38 homes September 9, 2010.

Source: http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/national/article_77415064-fcf9-5cc5-972f-cd8f4864175f.html

3. *November 6, Associated Press* – (Northeast) **Thousands in Northeast mark 8th day without power.** Tens of thousands in the Northeast remained without power November 6, 8 days after a rare October snowstorm knocked much of the region into the dark. The storm, which hit October 29 and 30, hammered the Northeast and cut electricity to more than 3 million homes and businesses throughout the region. At a news conference November 6 in Connecticut, the state's largest utility announced it would not meet its goal of restoring power to 99 percent of its 1.2 million customers. The chief operating officer for Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) stated about 88,000 customers still remained without electricity, and that it would probably take until November 9 before all power was restored. About 6,000 of the outages were new and unrelated to the October snowstorm that cut power to 800,000 Connecticut residents, he said. The Connecticut governor has launched an independent probe of the utility companies' response amid a torrent of customer complaints, including a local fire department that said CL&P jeopardized safety by not quickly clearing roads of downed power lines and tree limbs.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g6obYD6zv4hapK9E0wewChYUMKzQ?docId=44377a7f145c4b63909534a0795d87bc>

4. *November 6, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Utah officials make new push to put out underground mine fire that has been burning since 1941.** Utah officials are making a new push to extinguish an underground fire that has been burning in an old coal mine since 1941, the Associated Press reported November 6. A spokesman for the Utah

Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project is overseeing the attempt to put out the fire burning in coal seams dozens of feet below ground near Helper, located 120 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. He told the Deseret News that while the fire at the old Maclean Mine in central Utah has never killed anyone or caused much property damage, it poses a safety hazard for hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts. Fumes deep in the ground remain deadly, he said, and concentrations of carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulfide are well above acceptable limits. The week of October 31, state contractors moved in with heavy equipment and mixed sand, cement, and foam into a type of grout. Plans call for them to pump 14,000 cubic yards of grout into the ground through drill holes and cracks in an effort to suffocate the fire by cutting off its oxygen supply. The fire has been burning so long it has caused rock above to crack and shift, causing the blaze to be fed by oxygen from multiple sources.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/2cc9b8dccb4b44bcb3f086a65a3c3133/UT--Old-Underground-Fire/>

5. *November 4, Florida Today* – (Florida) **Two charged in Scottsmoor diesel fuel thefts.** Deputies arrested two Miami men November 3 on charges they stole thousands of dollars worth of diesel fuel from the Stuckey's gas station in Scottsmoor, Florida. The two men face charges of grand theft, schemes to defraud, and unlawful conveyance of fuel. According to the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, the men placed a device inside the pump that let them draw out diesel fuel without paying for it. Deputies responded to the BP gas station on Stuckway Road, near Interstate 95, around 9 p.m. One of the men walked into the station to pay for \$100 worth of fuel, a small sum compared with the more than \$6,000 in fuel they stole, the station's owner said. Surveillance footage of the theft shows a tractor-trailer truck blocking the view of the pump from the clerk inside the store. Deputies said they have seen similar scams before, and they are continuing to investigate how the thieves planted the skimming device.

Source: [http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20111104/CRIME/111104006/Two-charged-Scottsmoor-gasoline-thefts?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Local News](http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20111104/CRIME/111104006/Two-charged-Scottsmoor-gasoline-thefts?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Local%20News)

6. *November 4, WFPL 89.3 FM Louisville* – (Kentucky) **LG&E fined up to \$26,000 for coal ash problems at Cane Run.** The Louisville, Kentucky, metro government fined Louisville Gas and Electric (LG&E) November 7 for several violations surrounding equipment malfunctions at the company's Cane Run Power Station. The Air Pollution Control District cited three specific violations — all surrounding excess emissions of coal ash at Cane Run. During 6 days in June, July, and August, an equipment malfunction at the sludge processing plant sent clouds of dust into the air, causing a nuisance to neighbors. The district also found the company failed to take reasonable measures to prevent release of ash into the neighborhood on three dates in July, and failed to report excess emissions from the plant on 4 days in August.

Source: <http://www.wfpl.org/2011/11/04/lge-fined-up-to-26000-for-coal-ash-problems-at-cane-run/>

7. *November 3, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **EPA orders investigation into pollution in SE Kan.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered owners of a

southeast Kansas oil refinery to investigate contamination that may have affected water. The EPA's regional office said the week of October 31 it reached a settlement with current and past owners of the Frontier El Dorado refinery in El Dorado. The current owner is Frontier El Dorado Refining. Shell Oil Products US was an earlier owner and is also listed on the settlement. The EPA said the site is contaminated with several toxic chemicals, including benzene, lead, and hexavalent chromium. The agency said those chemicals may have affected groundwater, surface water, and soil. The settlement in part requires Frontier and Shell to submit a report on past waste management practices, and determine a final remedy for the facility.

Source: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/news/2011/11/epa-orders-investigation-pollution-se-kan>

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Chemical Industry Sector

8. *November 7, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Ethanol spills in Pasco rail yard accident.** Two trains collided in a switching yard in Pasco, Washington, derailing two locomotives and about a dozen cars, November 7. The collision caused one of the cars to spill about 2,000 gallons of ethanol. A Burlington Northern Santa Fe spokesman said about three dozen fire department haz-mat crews and other emergency responders were at the scene. They evacuated about 10 people from the area. The spokesman said crews sprayed foam to prevent fire and built dikes to prevent the ethanol from reaching the Snake and Columbia Rivers. The spokesman said the accident was caused when a coupler broke and a string of about 50 cars rolled into an idling train. Three crewmen on a locomotive escaped unharmed before the crash.
Source: <http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/nov/06/ethanol-spills-in-pasco-rail-yard-accident/>
9. *November 4, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Chemical escapes at Calumet, sends 3 to hospital.** Safety officials at the Calumet Specialty Products refinery in Shreveport, Louisiana, were investigating an accident that sent three contractors to the hospital. The Shreveport Times November 4, reported the workers were part of a crew performing routine maintenance on a diesel hydrotreater — a fuel processing unit — when hydrogen sulfide gas escaped from a nearby pipe. A Calumet spokesman said two workers were overcome by the gas, while the third man was affected when he tried to help them. All three were taken to area hospitals for treatment. Their conditions were not immediately released. The Calumet spokesman said the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration was notified. He said the gas was immediately contained and shut off after the accident.
Source: <http://www.canadianbusiness.com/article/55567--chemical-escapes-at-calumet-sends-3-to-hospital>
10. *November 4, Sturgis Journal* – (Michigan) **Chief: Chemicals improperly stored.** A building that housed hazardous chemicals was heavily damaged by fire

November 3 in Lockport Township, Michigan. Authorities said a cleaning company hired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remove the chemicals witnessed the flash fire. The Fabius-Park fire chief said several pieces of hose and fire gear were abandoned at the scene because the chemicals in the building were not known. He said barrels inside the building were improperly stored, having no labels and no material safety data sheets. Firefighters were able to clear the scene and the EPA is investigating to identify the chemicals.

Source: <http://www.sturgisjournal.com/features/x669413021/Chief-Chemicals-improperly-stored>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

11. *November 7, Reuters* – (International) **Boeing 787 Dreamliner hit by landing gear glitch.** Boeing and All Nippon Airways are investigating a landing gear problem on the 787 Dreamliner, the first technical glitch reported since the new jetliner entered service less than 2 weeks ago, the airline said November 7. Pilots on the first of two aircraft delivered so far to All Nippon Airways were forced to deploy the landing gear using a manual backup system, after an indicator lamp suggested the wheels were not properly down. “We are not yet sure what the problem was, but we are investigating,” an airline spokesman said, adding that Boeing is also involved in the investigation. Kyodo news agency linked the problem to a hydraulic valve.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/07/uk-boeing-dreamliner-glitch-idUSLNE7A603L20111107>

12. *November 5, WWLP 22 Springfield* – (Massachusetts) **Factory evacuated due to chemical fire.** A chemical fire broke out around 10:30 a.m. November 5 at the International Metal Products building in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Chicopee’s deputy fire chief said people who live and work nearby were evacuated from the area for 3 hours as a precaution. The chemicals that caught on fire were potassium nitrate and sodium nitrite used to harden the metal products made at the factory. Four employees were sent to Baystate Medical Center, but all four were released and deemed to be unharmed. The building was to remain on fire watch until the morning of November 6.

Source: <http://www.wwlp.com/dpp/news/local/hampden/factory-evacuated-due-to-chemical-fire>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *November 7, Computer Weekly* – (International) **RBS and Natwest online banking down after maintenance glitch.** Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Natwest customers were unable to access online or telephone banking over the weekend of November 5 and 6 after maintenance issues. A glitch in a regular maintenance update November 5 took the banking services offline over the weekend. ATM machines and credit card payments were unaffected. An RBS spokesman confirmed all customers with an online bank account were affected, but was unable to provide details. All services are now “running largely as normal”, he said. “The issues emerged as a result of major system changes that took place overnight on [November 4],” said the spokesman in a statement. He said customers who suffered bank charges as a result of the problems will be refunded. The bank said it is possible some direct debit payments bounced and customers incurred charges. The RBS and Natwest online banking services downtime follows problems experienced by HSBC and Barclays customers the week of October 31. HSBC customers across the world had their cards rejected as the bank suffered a major technical problem. Customers were unable to use ATMs, online banking services, or make credit card payments. HSBC said the problems were caused by a mainframe outage. Services are now back to normal. Barclays customers were unable to log on to online bank accounts and encountered extended response times on Internet banking services for 2 days.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2011/11/07/248380/RBS-and-Natwest-online-banking-down-after-maintenance.htm>

14. *November 5, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New York) **Jury convicts ‘polite bandit’ from Cortlandt in 7 bank robberies.** A pair earned themselves the nicknames “the polite bandits” for a man’s habit of thanking his victims and bidding them a good day during a 2-month spree of seven armed bank robberies in New York. But that reputation for cordiality earned the other suspect no consideration from a jury of six men and six women who found the defendant guilty of all 18 charges against him. The man, already with two robbery convictions, faces the possibility of spending the rest of his life behind bars. The other defendant began cooperating with authorities shortly after FBI agents and detectives with the bureau’s Westchester County Violent Crimes Task Force arrested the two men in the Bronx April 19, 2010. The defendant, who wielded the .38-caliber revolver in all seven bank robberies in Westchester and Putnam counties, said the other suspect picked out the banks to rob, drove them to each robbery, and gave him the gun and bag he used to collect the stolen loot. He even used his car’s GPS to find another bank to hit February 22, 2010, after the robbery of a Hudson City Savings branch in White Plains yielded only \$3,000. The spree began with

the robbery of a Chinese restaurant in the Bronx in January 2010 that netted a few hundred dollars. Over the next 2 months, the two men robbed seven banks. Typically, the robber would enter a bank, display the gun, ask for all the cash in the teller drawers and the vaults if they were open. He would then thank his victims and tell them to have a nice day. His accomplice would wait nearby and drove them away after the heists. In all, they stole more than \$187,000.

Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20111105/NEWS01/111050343/Polite-bandit-bank-robber-convicted>

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Transportation Sector

15. *November 7, IFW.com* – (Washington; International) **More explosive containers found at port.** At least 10 more potentially explosive containers have been found at the Port of Seattle with a question mark still hanging over the fate of the growing collection of containers. Earlier this year, maritime authorities reported three reefer containers exploded or caused a fire, resulting in two fatalities in Vietnam, and one in Brazil. The explosions were believed to be the result of contaminated gas added to the boxes' refrigeration units during servicing in Vietnam. According to local reports, a growing stack of 80 refrigerated containers at the Port of Seattle has been sitting by itself, isolated from the rest of the port for safety reasons. The U.S. Coast Guard said it is working with the terminal operators to keep the 80 containers away from everyone, but admits there is no specific plan yet for dealing with them. The Pacific Maritime Association, which represents the various terminal operators, said it is looking for a solution to checking each container. These at-risk containers are being turned away from terminal operators, and as a result, they remain out in the public. Meantime, the union is worried about containers that left Vietnam and may have passed through local ports before the security alert was put in place. The three reefers that exploded were operated by Maersk Line, but since the danger was reported, all carriers were scrambling to find any reefers that were repaired in Vietnam since February. Maersk has removed all of its 844 reefer containers that were repaired in Vietnam.

Source: <http://www.ifw-net.com/freightpubs/ifw/index/more-explosive-containers-found-at-port/20017916576.htm>

16. *November 7, WTVR 6 Richmond* – (Virginia) **All lanes now open after morning crash closed Interstate 95.** Virginia State Police (VSP) continue to investigate the cause of a multi-vehicle crash on Interstate 95 in Richmond, Virginia. The accident closed all three lanes of northbound Interstate 95 during the November 7 morning rush hour. The accident, which happened near the Boulevard exit, created a 4-mile back-up. The interstate fully reopened around 10:15 a.m. A VSP spokesman reported five vehicles and a tractor trailer involved in the accident. He said six minor injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-accident-shuts-down-i95-north-bound-through-richmond-20111107.0,4343521.story>

17. *November 5, Florida Keys Keynote* – (Florida) **Key West plans runway repairs after back-to-back crash landings.** After two crash landings at Key West International Airport in Monroe County, Florida, the Monroe County Airports director said the most pressing issue now at the airfield is repairing the safety overrun credited with sparing the aircraft occupants from serious injury. The \$2.5 million, 600-foot runway extension was funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as part of a larger \$7.5-million safety upgrade. The overrun is essentially a sloped gravel surface, comprising 2,200 composite blocks, called Engineered Materials Arresting Systems, designed to slow down planes on impact. A team from manufacturer ESCO will travel to Key West November 7 to assess the damage, the director said. Just after noon October 3, a twin-engine Cessna Citation 550 carrying five people skidded off the runway on mangled landing gear after the brakes failed, according to statements made by the pilot and co-pilot to investigators with the FAA and National Transportation Safety Board. Staff from the two federal organizations were already on the ground in Key West looking into a similar event October 31 when another private plane, a Gulfstream 150, failed to brake upon landing at 7:45 p.m.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/11/05/2488332/key-west-plans-runway-repairs.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *November 5, WHIO 1290 AM Dayton* – (Ohio) **A chemical spill shuts down post office in Beavercreek.** A chemical spill shut down the Beavercreek, Ohio Post Office November 4. The spill happened at the post office in the 3500 block of Dayton-Xenia Road. Drops of an unknown liquid forced the post office to shut down for several hours. A private hazardous materials team was called in to clean up the liquid from the lobby floor. Post office officials said the drops appeared to be mercury. As of November 4, experts are still unsure what the substance was or where it came from. Mail was still being delivered as normal, officials said.

Source: <http://www.newstalkradiowhio.com/news/news/local/chemical-spill-shuts-down-post-office-beavercreek/nFWx4/>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *November 7, Food Safety News* – (Washington) **FDA warns school lunch supplier for moldy applesauce.** Snokist Growers, which provides processed fruit products to the National School Lunch Program and baby food makers, is under fire for repackaging applesauce containing potentially dangerous mold, Food Safety News reported November 7. The week of October 31, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials released a warning letter issued to the Yakima, Washington company that outlined significant violations. The FDA cited Snokist for reprocessing moldy

applesauce using a method “that is not effective against all toxic metabolites produced from the mold.” The FDA found eight instances between January and December 2010 in which the firm reprocessed moldy products using ineffective methods, and did not reexamine the final product. Earlier in 2011, recalled Snokist products were blamed for sickening nine children in North Carolina, according to MSNBC. The company recalled more than 3,300 cases of applesauce in May, blaming dented seals in the manufacturing process.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/11/fda-company-sent-moldy-applesauce-to-school-lunch-program/>

20. *November 7, Food Safety News* – (California; Arizona) **Allergy alert: Rice-A-Roni with milk.** Rice-A-Roni is recalling a small quantity of specific family-size boxes of Rice-A-Roni Rice Pilaf flavor due to an undeclared milk allergen, Food Safety News reported November 7. The recall was initiated after it was discovered the product may have had cross contact with products that contain milk. The recall is limited to 10.8-ounce family-size boxes of Rice-A-Roni Rice Pilaf flavor. This product was originally distributed to stores in California, and Arizona.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/11/allergy-alert-rice-a-roni-with-milk/>
21. *November 7, Food Safety News* – (Florida; International) **Smoked split herring recall.** Quirch Foods Co. of Miami is recalling Leslie Leger and Sons Ltd. brand Salted Smoked Split Herring, Food Safety News reported November 7. A routine sample collected at a retail store by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets found the product to be uneviscerated. Clostridium Botulinum spores, which can cause botulism, are more likely to be concentrated in the viscera than any other portion of the fish. The recall involves all lots of Leslie Leger and Sons Ltd. brand, Salted Smoked Split Herring. The product was distributed in 18-pound wooden boxes (40-60 count) to supermarkets and distributors in Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and Nassau BF. It was packaged at retail per customer request.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/11/smoked-split-herring-recall/>
22. *November 5, Food Safety News* – (International) **Tainted pine nuts recall expands to 21,000 pounds.** More than 21,000 pounds of pine nuts are being recalled after evidence of Salmonella contamination was found in samples from Sunrise Commodities, the distributor who sold them in bulk to food vendors in Florida, New Jersey, New York, and Canada, Food Safety News reported November 5. The Turkish pine nuts are implicated in an outbreak of Salmonella Enteritidis that has sickened at least 42 people across 5 states. The expanded recall announcement, issued November 4, comes more than a week after a 5,000-pound recall of pine nuts sold in bulk bins and used in prepared foods at Wegmans Food Markets in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia between July 1 and October 18. In a news release, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned consumers not to eat the Turkish pine nuts distributed by Sunrise, which is based in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. The FDA said its tests confirmed Salmonella in samples collected from a Sunrise warehouse; additional testing was underway to determine if the Salmonella matches the outbreak strain. The FDA said Sunrise alerted its customers November 3 to the results of the product tests and epidemiologic investigation, and asked them to notify their

subsequent customers of the recall. One of those was Badia Spices, which said it had repacked the Sunrise pine nuts and sold them in retail stores in Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey between June and October. In a separate news release, Badia Spices said it is recalling about 3,800 pounds of the pine nuts. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/11/tainted-pine-nuts-recall-expands-to-21000-pounds/>

23. *November 5, Food Safety News* – (International) **Smoked fish recalled due to botulism potential.** A California company is recalling smoked fish imported from the Philippines because it has the potential to be contaminated with *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacterium which can cause life-threatening illness or death, Food Safety News reported November 5. Foremost Foods, International, Inc. of Pomona, California, said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sampled the smoked roundscad and mackerel and found the fish to be partially uneviscerated. *Clostridium botulinum* spores are more likely to be concentrated in the viscera than any other portion of the fish. The recall is for certain Pangasinan brand smoked seafood products manufactured by FITRITE Incorporated of the Philippines and distributed in California, Nevada, and Washington through Seafood City and Manila Seafood retail stores. The smoked fish was sold between March 2010 and October 2011. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/11/smoked-fish-recalled-due-to-botulism-potential/>
24. *November 5, Food Safety News* – (National) **Korean oysters linked to norovirus in Washington state.** Consumers throughout the west should avoid ASSI brand frozen oysters from Korea, which have been linked to an outbreak of norovirus in Washington State, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said November 4. An FDA warning advised consumers not to eat frozen, shucked oysters packed in 3-pound bags and labeled ASSI brand “INDIVIDUALLY QUICK FROZEN OYSTER.” The company said the oysters were shipped to western states, including California, Colorado, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, and Texas. Washington health officials identified three people who were sickened after eating oysters at a restaurant in King County, Washington. Each bag identifies Central Fisheries Co. Ltd. as the packer, and Korean Farms of Santa Fe Springs, California, as the distributor. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/11/korean-oysters-linked-to-norovirus-in-washington-state/>

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Water Sector

25. *November 7, Reuters* – (Oklahoma) **Halliburton sued over pollution at Oklahoma missile casing site.** Halliburton Co. faces lawsuits over groundwater pollution near a now-closed facility in Duncan, Oklahoma, that cleaned missile casings for the U.S. Defense Department during the Cold War, the company said November 4. A component of the fuel was ammonium perchlorate, a salt that is highly soluble in water.

Halliburton said it had been discovered in the soil and groundwater on its site and in certain residential water wells near the property. The company said it was determining the extent of that contamination, and that it had arranged to supply residents with bottled water and, if needed, a temporary water supply system. The lawsuits also allege radioactive water contamination, although Halliburton said that radioactive contamination was only present in an isolated spot and posed no threat of water supply contamination.

Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southcentral/2011/11/07/223236.htm>

26. *November 7, Texas Tribune* – (Texas) **Drought raises concerns about Texas water quality.** As lake and river levels throughout Texas drop due to an intense 13-month drought, concerns about the quality of water supplies in Texas cities are growing, the Texas Tribune reported November 7. The utilities director for the city of Odessa noted water quality has degraded due to a higher amount of dissolved solids, such as salt, due to water evaporation. A spokesman for Austin Water Utility that serves Austin and surrounding areas said he is seeing more persistent algae problems in Lake Austin water than normal. Stagnant water caused by diminished inflows to lakes encourages algae growth, necessitating the use of additional water treatment additives. There is also an impact on fish, many of which are turning up dead in lakes and streams. A researcher from Baylor University said chemicals released from wastewater treatment facilities that are normally harmless have become toxic at higher pH levels. The worsening water quality could also become a concern for high-tech manufacturers in Central Texas, given their need for huge amounts of very pure water for memory chips. Source: <http://www.texastribune.org/texas-environmental-news/environmental-problems-and-policies/drought-comes-water-quality-issues/>
27. *November 7, YNN Hudson Valley* – (New York) **Boil water advisory for Town of Rosendale.** The Ulster County Health Department advised all residents November 7 in the town of Rosendale, New York, to boil water before drinking it. The advisory is because of a water main leak, which forced the district to turn on the back-up water supply. Due to a high content of sodium in the water, anyone who is on a sodium-restricted diet was advised not to drink the water. Instead, they were urged to use bottled water. Source: http://hudsonvalley.ynn.com/content/top_stories/562870/boil-water-advisory-for-town-of-rosendale/
28. *November 6, Green Bay Press Gazette* – (Wisconsin) **Tainted water in town of Chase northwest of Green Bay remains a mystery.** Federal environmental regulators November 6 joined an investigation into drinking water supplies tainted by elevated levels of a chemical used to make plastic products in Chase, Wisconsin. The problem was first detected last year at Sunnyside Elementary School and prompted school authorities to begin supplying bottled water to students, teachers, and staff. But tests this summer showed that the same contaminant was turning up in private homeowner wells, leading investigators to question whether the situation was more widespread. Although officials said there is no health hazard to Chase residents, a chemical commonly known as DEHP has been detected at the school and elsewhere at more than six times the maximum level permitted by federal law. What is most perplexing to

investigators is that they can find no nearby factory, landfill, or other operation that might represent a source.

Source:

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20111106/GPG0101/111060584/Oconto-Co-mystery-Where-Chase-s-tainted-water-coming-from-?odyssey=tab|topnews|img|GPG-News>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *November 7, CNN* – (North Dakota) **Oil boom leads to surging ER visits, STDs.** The explosive growth in the small towns surrounding the Bakken oil formation in North Dakota has led to a surge in accidents and patients, putting an incredible strain on local medical facilities. In Williston, North Dakota, Mercy Medical Center’s emergency room visits have increased 50 percent in the last 12 months. Currently short 70 positions — from nurses and surgeons to cafeteria workers and janitorial staff — the hospital is racing to catch up with demand. But on any given day, there are 30 percent more requests for medical services than it can accept. Smaller health care facilities in the surrounding oil boom towns are seeing similar crowds. “Numbers are off-the-charts busy,” said a registered nurse at the health center on the Fort Berthold Reservation in New Town, less than 100 miles North of Williston. “We only have so many ambulances available ... people have to wait for ambulances to get to them so we’ve had a big increase in trauma-related fatalities.” And along with longer waits for emergency care, doctor’s offices and health care clinics are so booked that people have to wait months for appointments. Even sexually-transmitted diseases have risen to a record high in the area, the nurse said.
Source: <http://www.wfmz.com/business/stocks/Oil-boom-leads-to-surging-ER-visits-STDs/-/121658/4689570/-/tlhbprz/-/>
30. *November 4, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **UCLA medical officials say patient information data stolen.** Information on 16,288 patients was taken from the home of a physician whose house was burglarized September 6, the Los Angeles Times reported November 4. According to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Health System, the data were on the physician’s external hard drive. Though the hard drive was encrypted, a piece of paper with the password was nearby and is also missing. The physician notified UCLA the next day and officials began identifying affected patients. The physician works for UCLA Faculty Practice Group, whose doctors see patients at outpatient clinics and four inpatient hospitals: Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center and Orthopedic Hospital, Mattel Children’s Hospital, and Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital. The stolen data included first and last names as well as some birth dates, medical record numbers, addresses, and medical information from 2007 to 2011. It did not include Social Security numbers, credit card or insurance details. The UCLA Health System warned the thousands of patients that their personal data were stolen and they were at risk of identity theft. Officials do not

believe the information has been accessed or misused, but were referring patients to a data security company.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/11/ucla-patient-identification-stolen.html>

31. *November 4, Lawrence Memorial Hospital* – (Kansas) **Security breach at Lawrence Memorial Hospital.** On October 28, Lawrence Memorial Hospital learned that certain information maintained by Mid Continent Credit Services, Inc., d/b/a Blue Sky Credit, the hospital's vendor for online patient bill-pay services, was inadvertently made publicly available on the Internet between September 20 and October 28. The following types of information may have been available, depending on what data was entered into the online payment system by the person making the payment: patient name, phone number, e-mail address, health care provider, payment amount, and date of payment; credit card information including type of card, name and address of the card holder, account number, verification number, and expiration date; or checking account information including check number, account holder name and address, checking account number and bank routing number, and bank name and address. The information involved did not include any medical records and was not released by the hospital. The event occurred as a result of failed security measures on a Web site hosted by BrickWire LLC, which hosted the online patient bill-pay service on behalf of Mid Continent. It affects individuals who made online payments and patients for whom online payments were made. Individuals who made online payments for Health Fairs may be affected too. Upon discovery of the event, Lawrence Memorial Hospital notified Mid Continent, which worked with BrickWire to disable the system and implement measures to disable access to the data. The hospital does not know whether any information was accessed. Mid Continent has agreed to offer a free, 1-year credit monitoring subscription to affected individuals.

Source: <http://6lawrence.com/security-breach-at-lawrence-memorial-hospital/>

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *November 6, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **20 arrested at Occupy Atlanta protest.** Police arrested 20 people after an Occupy Atlanta protest rally in an Atlanta park spilled onto the streets and officers converged on them on motorcycles, on horseback, and in riot gear, the Associated Press reported November 6. A crowd of several hundred protesters gathered at Woodruff Park, the scene of about 50 arrests of demonstrators in October, and set up tents. Organizers said they planned to stay overnight despite warnings from the mayor and police that anyone there past the 11 p.m. closing would be arrested. As 11 p.m. approached, protesters began decamping peacefully. Dozens of officers were on hand, herding protesters away from the park's entrances and installing barricades around it. While most protesters left the park, a few people stayed behind. As demonstrators poured onto Peachtree Street and downtown, a police officer on a motorcycle drove into the crowd, sparking a confrontation between officers and protesters that turned tense. Police officers in riot gear and on horseback filled the street, warning protesters to stay on the sidewalk. Police made a number of

arrests, mostly people who disobeyed orders to stay on the sidewalk.

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57319328/20-arrested-at-occupy-atlanta-protest/

33. *November 5, KWTX 10 Waco* – (Texas) **Two-dozen people sickened at Texas High School football game.** Nearly two-dozen people, many of them students, became ill during a high school football game November 4 in Houston after they were exposed to an unknown substance. The Houston Fire Department sent haz-mat crews to Barnett Stadium after Austin High band members became ill during a game against Yates. A Houston school district spokesman told the Houston Chronicle that symptoms included severe nausea, dizziness, and vomiting. The assistant fire chief said whatever students were exposed to came from the concessions area. In all, 22 students from the band and drill team were taken to 5 Houston hospitals. A firefighter who complained of nausea remained at the stadium to treat students. The game was ended early, and the stadium was evacuated. A game scheduled to be played at the stadium November 5 was moved because of the incident, the Chronicle reported November 5.
Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/Two-Dozen-People-Sickened-At-Texas-High-School-Football-Game-133294338.html>
34. *November 4, WXIA 11 Atlanta* – (National) **‘Covert group’ one ingredient away from deadly toxin.** Four men who were indicted in alleged terror attacks had the weapons they wanted and were one ingredient away from making the deadly toxin ricin, according to a criminal indictment, WXIA 11 Atlanta reported November 4. Two days before they were arrested, two of the defendants said they needed just one more ingredient to produce ricin, according to the indictment. One of them said he needed 1 pound of lye and was ready to begin the process of making the deadly toxin. On November 1, the day the suspects were arrested, the defendants met with an undercover agent and gave him cash and a firearm and received a silencer and what they believed were explosives. The indictment said one man had in his possession written instructions for detonating a destructive device. The four North Georgia men are accused of planning attacks on unnamed government officials with ricin and explosives. They indicated in court in Gainesville, Georgia, November 2 that they wanted a bond hearing. The hearing, along with a preliminary hearing, will be held November 9, once the defendants are appointed lawyers.
Source: <http://www.11alive.com/news/article/211347/3/Covert-group-one-ingredient-away-from-deadly-toxin>

For more stories, see items [28](#) and [43](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

35. *November 4, Salinas Californian* – (California) **Four inmates injured in riot at Salinas Valley State Prison.** Four inmates were hurt in a huge fight involving as many as 120 inmates at the Salinas Valley State Prison in Soledad, California, November 3, said a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation spokeswoman.

According to preliminary information, two inmates were stabbed and two others received multiple head injuries, but no staff was injured, she said. “They [guards] used chemical agents, pepper spray and less lethal munitions and finally resorted to using lethal rounds from mini-14 rifles,” the spokeswoman said. No inmates were hit by the lethal rounds, she said. The disturbance started between 3 and 3:15 p.m. but the spokeswoman said authorities did not know what sparked the fighting or how long it went on. The fighting started in an outdoor general population maximum security yard. Source: <http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20111104/NEWS01/111040313>

36. *November 4, KNSD 4 San Diego* – (California) **Suspect breaks into fire station, takes ambulance keys: Officials.** A suspect broke into the Rancho Santa Fe, California Fire Protection District Station 2 (RSFFPD) November 4, taking keys to an ambulance and a pager, according to RSFFPD officials. The suspect entered the station and headed to a dorm room assigned to a San Diego Medical Services paramedic at about 6:40 a.m., according to a media release. The suspect reportedly took keys assigned to one of the station’s ambulances as well as an ambulance pager. A second ambulance was moved to the station to make sure service was not interrupted. The San Diego County Sheriff’s department is cooperating with station officials to investigate the incident. Source: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Suspect-Breaks-Into-Fire-Station-Takes-Ambulance-Keys-Officials--133274758.html>
37. *November 4, Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office and WFMY 51 Greensboro* – (North Carolina) **Sheriff: Guns, body armor stolen from officer’s home In Ruffin.** Sheriff’s detectives are investigating a breaking and entering November 3, at the home of a Piedmont Triad International (PTI) Airport Authority police officer in Rockingham County, North Carolina. According to the Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office, four handguns, one shotgun, one rifle, and police-issued body armor were stolen from the home in Ruffin. The break-in occurred between 4 a.m. and 10:46 p.m. November 3. All of the firearms taken were personal property of the officer; however, the body armor is the property of PTI Airport Authority Police. Source: <http://www.digtriad.com/news/article/197770/1/Sheriff-Guns-Body-Armor-Stolen-From-Officers-Home-In-Ruffin>

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Information Technology Sector

38. *November 7, Softpedia* – (International) **PayPal account review notification hides phishing campaign.** PayPal’s name and reputation are utilized by cybercriminals in the latest phishing scam. The scam masks itself as a notification coming from the PayPal Account Review Team which informs the customer about a credit card issue. According to Sophos, the message alerts the potential victims of a credit card charge that has been blocked by their system since it was unusual. Once the attachment is opened, it reveals a form that replicates a PayPal page in which the user is urged to enter personal information such as name, date of birth, Social Security number, phone,

and other sensitive data. PayPal does send notification e-mails, but they never contain attachments.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/PayPal-Account-Review-Notification-Hides-Phishing-Campaign-232722.shtml>

39. *November 4, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Duqu hackers moved C&C server to Belgium.** The hackers behind the Duqu trojan moved the command and control server which communicates with the malware to Belgium to evade detection, according to security researchers at Symantec. The firm noted all samples of Duqu code recovered previously were configured to contact a server hosted in India. “This particular Duqu file [however] was configured to communicate with a server in Belgium with the IP address ‘77.241.93.160’,” Symantec added. “The server has since been taken offline. We appreciate the cooperation from the hosting provider [Combell] in taking action immediately after being contacted.” The security vendor added that six possible organizations in eight countries including France, Vietnam, and Ukraine confirmed infections.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2122799/duqu-hackers-moved-server-belgium>

For more stories, see items [13](#), [26](#), [31](#), [40](#), [49](#),

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

40. *November 7, CNET News* – (National) **Time Warner Cable gets hit with ‘large’ outage.** Time Warner Cable’s Internet customers nationwide experienced a brief outage November 7, the company confirmed. “We appear to be recovering from a large but brief internet outage affecting most of our service areas,” Time Warner Cable said in a tweet on its customer service Twitter page. The company then asked customers to “attempt to connect again. It appears the outage occurred sometime after 6 a.m. Pacific time November 7, and affected people nationwide, at least from New York to Texas. A quick Twitter search reveals many Time Warner Cable customers took to Twitter to complain of the outage. However, the issue appears to have been resolved. Whether it was just a Time Warner Cable issue November 7, though, is unknown at this point. RCN, another cable Internet provider, also apparently experienced some trouble at around the same time as Time Warner Cable, causing some customers from Boston to Pennsylvania to suffer through a brief outage November 7. However, RCN has yet to publicly confirm the reported outage relates to Time Warner Cable’s issues.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-13506_3-57319625-17/time-warner-cable-gets-hit-with-large-outage/

41. *November 4, Highland Lakes Newspapers* – (Texas) **Shot cable disrupts phone service.** Someone shooting off a weapon may be responsible for shutting down regular phone service as well as some cellphones in Burnet County, Texas, November 3. Residents in the Silver Creek subdivision reported a widespread disruption of phone service at 7 p.m. Customers complained their landline services could not make or receive calls, and some Verizon Wireless customers said that of the few cell phones that were able to make a connection, reception was compromised and full of noise and static. Residents along FM 2341 said their neighbors within a 10-mile radius were without service for about 18 hours. A Verizon representative confirmed the outage November 4, and said a technician reported the aerial (overhead) cable had apparently been shot and damaged from a pasture area along Route 7 of FM 2341. Phone technicians replaced the cable and made necessary repairs, and service was restored at about 1:30 p.m. November 4.

Source:

http://www.highlandernews.com/news_article.php?category_id=2&article_id=1453

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Commercial Facilities Sector

42. *November 7, Associated Press* – (Florida) **18 people complain of sickness from carpet glue, 13 evacuated from Boca Raton clubhouse.** Fire officials said fumes from glue used to install carpet caused several employees at Boca West Country Club in Boca Raton, Florida to feel sick, the Associated Press reported November 7. A Palm Beach County Fire Rescue spokesman said about 50 new employees at the country club had gathered for a meeting in the afternoon November 6 when some of them began complaining of feeling dizzy. The Palm Beach Post reported the first two firefighters who arrived at the scene also felt lightheaded and were sent to the hospital to be checked out. The spokesman said rescue workers looked at 13 employees, and sent six to the hospital. He said all were treated and released, and it appears the carpet glue caused the problem.

Source: http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/region_s_palm_beach_county/boca_raton/18-people-complain-of-sickness,-13-evacuated-from-clubhouse

43. *November 6, Associated Press* – (National) **5.6 quake strikes Okla., 10 aftershocks follow.** Oklahoma residents more accustomed to tornadoes than earthquakes were shaken by temblors that cracked buildings, buckled a highway, and rattled nerves the Associated Press reported November 6. One quake November 5 was the state's strongest ever and jolted a college football stadium 50 miles away. It was followed by 10 aftershocks by mid-morning November 6. But although homes and other buildings cracked and suffered minor damage, there were no reports of severe injuries or major devastation. The earthquake jolted Oklahoma State University's stadium shortly after a game ended. The magnitude 5.6 earthquake was Oklahoma's strongest on record, said a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey. Centered near Sparks, 44 miles northeast

of Oklahoma City, it could be felt throughout the state and in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, northern Texas, and some parts of Illinois and Wisconsin. It followed a magnitude 4.7 quake November 5 that was felt from Texas to Missouri. Several homeowners and businesses reported cracked walls, fallen knickknacks, and other minor damage. The spokesman for St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, said one of the four towers on its "castle-looking" administration building had collapsed, and the other three towers were damaged. He estimated the towers were about 25-feet tall.

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57319367/5.6-quake-strikes-okla-10-aftershocks-follow/

44. *November 4, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Sewage spill closes Virginia Beach.** A spill of 1.1 million gallons of partially treated sewage at the plant in the Virginia Key barrier island off the coast of Miami could close the nearby shoreline to swimming through the weekend of November 5 and 6. Tests after the spill late November 3 showed unhealthy levels of fecal coliform, an indicator of human waste, in waters along Virginia Key beach. The no-swimming advisory will continue until there are two consecutive days of clean sampling, a spokesman for the Miami-Dade County Permitting Environment and Regulatory Affairs Department said. The county was testing November 4, but the waters along the east side of Virginia Key were expected to remain closed until at least November 5. A power failure November 3 triggered the spill, said a spokeswoman for the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department. A pump at the Virginia Key plant, which processes much of the county's sewage, turned off as the plant shifted from generator operation back to the power grid, she said. It has been running on generators since the previous weekend, a standard procedure when high flows or storms are expected. The controlling pumps were out for about half an hour, she said, spilling the partially treated waste through a relief valve and then into Biscayne Bay near Jimbo's Place, the bait shop and bar. She said the electrical problem occurred in Florida Power & Light equipment and the problem was fixed.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/11/04/2487052/sewage-spill-closes-virginia-beach.html>

45. *November 4, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **3-alarm fire sweeps through west Harris County apartments.** Dozens of stunned residents, bundled up due to the cold, stood outside and watched as a three-alarm fire swept through their Harris County apartment complex in Houston, November 4. Firefighters from at least six departments joined to battle the blaze that broke out at the Green Trail Apartments, located in the 1100 block of Houghton Road, around 4:40 a.m. Residents said they heard two loud bangs. They looked outside after hearing the explosion and saw flames shooting toward the sky, so they grabbed what they could and ran out of their homes. Firefighters said there may have been oxygen tanks in the first-floor apartment where the fire started, and those tanks could have caused the explosions. In all, 16 families fled their homes — many with just the clothes they were wearing. One woman was airlifted to the hospital in critical condition, suffering from smoke inhalation and burns. Firefighters said she was in the apartment where the blaze started. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.khou.com/news/local/2-alarm-fire-sweeps-through-west-Harris-County-apartments-133228738.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

46. *November 6, KATU 2 Portland* – (Oregon) **Police: Man with knife attacks rangers in Forest Park.** A man allegedly attacked two City of Portland, Oregon park rangers when they were attempting to question him about a possible crime November 6. At just before noon, Portland police officers were dispatched on a report of man assaulting someone with a knife at Forest Park. While officers were enroute to the area, police learned a man had chased after a park ranger and both had fallen down a 70-foot steep embankment. Once officers arrived, they found a City of Portland park ranger who was injured but conscious and alert. The man was also found at the bottom of the embankment and had “paralyzing type injuries,” according to a press release. Another City of Portland park ranger told police he and a fellow ranger were going to talk with the man about allegations of exposing himself and harassing female hikers. That is when the man allegedly pulled out a roughly 6-inch knife and attempted to attack both unarmed rangers before they had a chance to talk to him. The rangers tried to get away from the man, but when they were unsuccessful, they tried to subdue the man as he allegedly actively tried to stab them. During the struggle is when the man and a ranger fell down the embankment.

Source: <http://www.katu.com/news/local/133337158.html>

47. *November 5, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Abandoned southwest Idaho copper mines being filled following wildfire.** Federal officials are working to fill in abandoned copper mines in southwestern Idaho following a wildfire that burned away brush and exposed hidden mine openings while making other known mine openings accessible, the Associated Press reported November 5. A representative of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) said the agency November 1 backfilled a 40-foot-deep mine shaft that was about 6 feet wide. The agency also found three horizontal mine openings since the fire. The mines were exposed after the 1,300-acre Drive-in Fire fire last August that burned much of Chinese Peak east of Pocatello. The BLM representative said the mines are dangerous because of the potential for long falls or lack of oxygen. “Most people that happen across something like this do it by accident,” he said. “They come through the vegetation and don’t see it and fall in, especially in the dryer months of August and September when the soil around the mouth is soft and can slide easily.” The work to fill the mines will be paid for with Emergency Stability and Rehabilitation funds the government supplied to restore the area following the fire. The BLM representative said before a mine is filled, crews search to ensure there are no animals inside or human remains. Workers also check for explosives and chemicals left behind by miners. The burned area is closed to vehicles but remains open to horseback riders and hikers.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/a765bcce8dbd49ac9548de3872e4ba84/ID--Abandoned-Mine-Shafts/>

For another story, see item [4](#)

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Dams Sector

48. *November 5, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Ouzinkie’s 25-year-old wooden dam rotting, officials plan for possibility of collapse.** A wooden dam that provides drinking water for the Spruce Island settlement of Ouzinkie, Alaska, is rotting and on the verge of collapse, but how to fix the structure remains a big question, a state official said November 5. The Mahoona Dam, built in 1986 and improved in 1996, provides drinking water and electric power to the settlement of 161 people, the Kodiak Daily Mirror reported. Rotting was discovered during an inspection this past summer, and officials responded by lowering water levels to ease pressure, a state dam safety engineer said. Replacing the dam could take 2 or 3 years and would cost about \$6 million — money that would be difficult for the settlement to find. Officials have been considering structural repairs, an Anchorage engineering consultant said. But that, too, could be costly. The dam is about 1.5 miles east of Ouzinkie proper, and no homes are threatened if it gives way. Nearby, however, is a power plant that has several hundred thousand dollars’ worth of new equipment that was installed in recent years with Denali Commission funding. The city’s new water treatment plant is also nearby, but should be undamaged if the dam breaks at the lower water level. But the small flood that would follow a dam break would be just the start of Ouzinkie’s problems. The community would be left without cheap hydroelectricity and its water system would be left dry. To back up the hydroelectric plant, there are diesel generators, but with diesel at more than \$4.50 per gallon, running those full-time would raise costs considerably. City employees are using their spare time to put in an all-weather road to the dam site, which would be needed during repair or construction of a new dam.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/1fda79c1bc474321b84618e9bbc95395/AK--Damaged-Dam/>

49. *November 5, Bloomberg* – (International) **Thai authorities wage ‘battle’ with floodwaters to save Bangkok.** Thai officials built more barriers around Bangkok November 5 as floodwaters edged closer to the city’s center, forcing new evacuations and the closure of one of the country’s biggest shopping malls. The Thai prime minister said a 3.7- mile wall of sandbags being completed along a canal north of Bangkok will help ease flooding in eastern parts of the capital. Rising floodwaters in the city’s northern suburbs forced the closure of the Central Plaza Ladprao shopping mall, close to the city’s famous Chatuchak weekend market. Bangkok officials are bolstering a network of dikes, canals, and sandbag barriers to help divert a slow-moving mass of floodwater around the city center. The floods have claimed at least 442 lives since late July, and shuttered 10,000 factories in provinces north of Bangkok, disrupting global supply chains for companies including Sony Corp. and Honda Motor Co. The disaster worsened last month, when rainfall about 40 percent more than the annual average filled dams north of Bangkok to capacity, prompting authorities to release more than 9 billion cubic meters of water down a river basin the size of Florida, with Bangkok at its

southern tip. The deluge spread over 64 of Thailand's 77 provinces, damaging World Heritage-listed temples in Ayutthaya province, destroying 15 percent of the nation's rice crop, and flooding the homes of almost 10 million people, according to government data.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-11-05/thai-authorities-wage-battle-with-floodwaters-to-save-bangkok.html>

50. *November 4, MagicValley.com* – (Idaho) **Minidoka Dam access closed as \$21M replacement begins.** Public access to the Minidoka Dam spillway in Idaho was closed November 4, as preliminary work started on a \$21 million replacement of the century-old Snake River dam. Public access will also be restricted about 400 feet downriver, a Bureau of Reclamation activity manager said, while the dam's replacement and demolition takes place. Record Steel and Construction will tackle the task of replacing the 2,237-foot-long spillway located about 10 miles northeast of Rupert. The bulk of the work was expected to begin in December. Signs will be posted to identify areas closed to the public. Fishing will still be permitted in the Lake Walcott reservoir upriver of the dam, except during heavy construction periods. However, some popular ice fishing locations may be more difficult to access. The project will include demolishing the existing pier and stop-log structure, replacing it with a new roller-compacted concrete spillway with new spillway gates. Replacing the spillway will allow Reclamation to meet its contract obligations for water delivery, power generation, and compliance with the Endangered Species Act, according to a release. Construction has been timed so it will not affect delivery of irrigation water for the Minidoka or Burley irrigation districts, which will receive new head gates, the activity manager said. The new spillway will be constructed downstream, while the current spillway acts as a coffer dam, he said. As the new spillway is constructed, certain portions of the old dam will be removed. The restrictions on public access will remain in place until the project is complete in March 2015.

Source: http://magicvalley.com/news/local/minidoka-dam-access-closed-as-m-replacement-begins/article_887b395c-071d-11e1-b1bc-001cc4c03286.html

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