



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 16 November 2011

Top Stories

- Information security deficiencies at the IRS put sensitive taxpayer data at risk, according to a financial audit by the Government Accountability Office. – *threatpost* (See item [14](#))
- The California Department of Transportation fired two employees amid investigations into faulty — and in some instances falsified — structural testing on bridges and highway projects across the state. – *Los Angeles Times* (See item [21](#))

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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 15, Youngstown Business Journal Daily* – (National) **U.S. Board seeks greater shale regulation.** A Federal advisory board studying the potential effects of shale gas exploration said there is a “real risk of serious environmental consequences” if action is not taken to better regulate the industry. The Secretary of the Energy Advisory Board Subcommittee on Shale Gas Production received approval from the full committee November 14, and the final version of the report will be sent to U.S. Department of Energy Secretary for his approval. The subcommittee chairman and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said that in August, the

subcommittee outlined 20 recommendations that the industry needs to consider in order to make shale drilling safer. Recommendations include requiring energy companies to fully disclose all of the chemicals and additives used during the hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” process. The method uses high-pressure fluid and sand to force open fissures in shale rock, unleashing either natural gas or wet gas. Other recommendations call for energy companies to reduce air emissions; eliminate diesel fuel in the fracking process; launch additional field studies on possible methane leaks from shale gas wells to water reservoirs; and for government agencies to improve communication between state and federal regulators.

Source: <http://business-journal.com/us-board-seeks-greater-shale-regulation-p20402-1.htm>

2. *November 14, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Gas leak at Port of Brownsville business injures 1, forces evacuations.** Officials said a gas leak at a Port of Brownsville business in Texas injured one worker and caused the evacuation of seven companies as about 57,000 gallons of propane were released into the air. Officials responded November 14 to the valve leak in a propane storage tank at a company that transports and stores petroleum and chemical products. The Brownsville fire chief said crews worked for nearly 5 hours to contain the leak, but the full tank of propane was released. The injured worker was transported to the hospital after part of the valve struck him when it ruptured. Officials closed part of Highway 48 during the leak, but later reopened it. A Texas Commission on Environmental Quality official said they are investigating, but added that there were not any immediate health threats.
Source: <http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/4ce9c8f7426b433c80042be1d9415fc7/TX--Brownsville-Port-Leak/ak/>
3. *November 14, Albany Times-Union* – (New York) **Propane truck fire snarled Route 7 traffic.** A tanker truck shuttling more than 13,000 gallons of propane from Selkirk to Glens Falls, New York, caught fire the morning of November 14 on Route 7, forcing the portion of the busy road between the Northway and Interstate 787 to close during rush hour. The driver was on Route 7 when he heard a loud popping noise coming from the engine, state police said. The truck lost power and the driver pulled over to the shoulder of the road. He climbed out of the truck’s cab as flames started jutting out from beneath the front of the vehicle. Police closed Route 7 in both directions between Latham and Troy while six fire engines from volunteer fire departments in Colonie worked to extinguish the blaze. The fire inspector for Colonie said the fire was contained in 15 to 20 minutes. Police said they considered evacuating nearby homes, but decided it was not necessary when the blaze was quelled quickly. The 3-mile stretch of Route 7 was reopened after about 2 hours. The tanker was filled with 13,198 gallons of liquid propane.
Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Propane-truck-fire-snarled-Route-7-traffic-2267959.php>
4. *November 14, Kalamazoo Gazette* – (Michigan) **Submerged oil cleanup finished in Kalamazoo River for the year.** Crews have completed work extracting submerged oil from the bottom of the Kalamazoo River in Michigan for the year. The spokesman for

Enbridge Energy Partners said the majority of submerged oil has been collected and crews are shifting to start winter cleanup. “There are still some remnants of submerged oil in the Kalamazoo River,” he said. “The exact quantity is difficult to measure, but we are currently trying to calculate the remaining amount based on core samples. The samples have been collected and are now being tested analytically.” Enbridge estimates that about 840,000 gallons of oil spilled from its Pipeline 6B in Marshall in July 2010. Because of dropping temperatures, the methods to extract submerged oil are not as effective. Since the oil flowing through the pipeline was diluted bitumen — a heavy crude oil mixed with chemicals from Alberta, Canada — the heavier part sank to the bottom of the river and mixed with sediment. Crews had to develop new methods to extract it. Crews have removed oil from some areas of the river multiple times because of the movement.

Source:

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/11/submerged_oil_cleanup_finished_1.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *November 15, Springfield State Journal-Register* – (Illinois) **Love’s Truck Stop at Williamsville evacuated after chemical spill.** Residents of Williamsville, Illinois who live within one-quarter mile of Love’s Truck Stop off Interstate 55 were advised to stay inside the night of November 14 because of a hazardous material leak. A lieutenant with the Williamsville Fire Department said a tractor-trailer truck parked at Love’s leaked a hazardous liquid called ethyl acrylate. Love’s, along with the attached McDonalds and the Huddle House, all near the Interstate 55 exit ramp at Williamsville, were evacuated. People were at first advised not to use their furnaces and other heating devices, but that warning was dropped later in the evening. The chemical, which is flammable, can cause dizziness and nausea to some people if inhaled, the lieutenant said. Authorities first arrived at the site about 5:30 p.m.

Source: <http://www.sj-r.com/top-stories/x745433803/Loves-Truck-Stop-at-Williamsville-evacuated>

6. *November 14, WTVF 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Crews respond to hazardous chemical spill in North Nashville.** Emergency crews responded to a warehouse in North Nashville, Tennessee after reports of a hazardous chemical spill the afternoon of November 14. Crews responded to 3326 Briley Park Boulevard South just before 5 p.m. The facility at this location is owned by Vanderbilt University. A malfunction in one of the building’s systems used to sterilize medical instruments caused a leak of ethylene oxide. The chemical is flammable and potentially dangerous. The building was evacuated as a precaution.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/story/16038664/crews-respond-to-hazardous-chemical-spill-in-north-nashville>

7. *November 14, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Dozens of workers evacuated after chemical leak at business.** It's back to business as usual for five companies evacuated November 14 following a leaking tank of acetylene gas at Nation Coating Systems (NCS) in Franklin, Ohio. Around 11:11 a.m., fire officials and a member from the Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Materials team responded to 501 Shotwell Drive for a leaking tank full of acetylene — a fuel used for welding, a fire captain said. NCS supplies thermal spray coating for industrial application, according to its Web site. The captain said about 50 employees were evacuated from various businesses in the industrial park — NCS, M&S Flooring, Caring Partners International, Waytek, Inc. and Olivamed. The workers were relocated to a nearby vacant building until about 1:30 p.m. The captain said NCS employees were attempting to unscrew the tank's lid with a wrench when the liquid started spewing out. The chemical is very explosive, the captain said. But it is heavier than air and it dissipated. Power to the building was shut off before officials entered, the captain said. He added the tank was moved outside and the building's doors left open to ventilate.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/dozens-of-workers-evacuated-after-chemical-leak-at-business-1284332.html>

8. *November 11, HealthImaging.com* – (Idaho) **FDA issues warning to International Isotopes.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sent a warning letter to International Isotopes, a radiochemical product manufacturer based in Idaho Falls, Idaho, due to violations of Current Good Manufacturing Practice regulations, HealthImaging.com reported November 11. In the letter dated October 26, the FDA said many violations in the production of Sodium Iodide I-131 solution were discovered during a July inspection. The violations included: all appropriate identity tests were not performed on each batch of incoming components; there was no established written procedure for calibration of pipettes, scales and radioisotope calibrators used in the manufacture of Sodium Iodide I-131; software used in batch production had not been validated; and written procedures for storage, handling, labeling and other processes lacked sufficient detail. In addition, the letter said International Isotopes was manufacturing Sodium Iodide I-131 solution, classified as a “new drug,” without an approved FDA application. But the FDA said it would allow continued production of the solution while the manufacturer corrects the violations. “This decision is consistent with FDA's commitment to take action against marketed unapproved drugs without imposing an undue burden on patients,” an FDA district director said. International Isotopes previously responded to the inspection observations in August, but the response lacked sufficient corrective actions, according to the warning letter.

Source:

http://www.healthimaging.com/index.php?option=com_articles&view=article&id=30404:fda-issues-warning-to-international-isotopes

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *November 14, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Georgia) **Georgia plating company cited by US Department of Labor’s OSHA for repeat and serious safety and health violations; more than \$77,000 proposed in fines.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration November 14 cited Browning Metal Finishing of Maysville, Georgia, for 16 safety and health violations following an inspection initiated after the agency received a complaint about the company. Proposed penalties total \$77,220. Seven repeat safety and health violations were cited. The four safety violations include using PVC piping for compressed air throughout the facility, failing to secure or mount electrical outlets properly, failing to guard live electrical parts of equipment, and failing to protect circuit breaker openings. Three health violations include failing to provide hot water with the correct pressure for an emergency eyewash station, failing to monitor or sample employees’ 8-hour weighted exposure to hexavalent chromium, failing to develop a hazard communication program for employees working with lead and hexavalent chromium, and failing to label plating tanks with contents. Seven serious safety and health violations were also cited. Six safety violations involve failing to: ensure latches were installed on an overhead hoist and regularly inspected; provide workers with the required training to operate powered industrial trucks; provide guarding for equipment; cover circuit breakers; replace missing stair rails; install proper receptacles in damp locations. One health violation was cited for permitting surfaces to contain excessive levels of lead in the plating area where employees are allowed to consume beverages.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=21309

10. *November 14, Leftlane* – (National) **NHTSA expands investigation of Saturn Aura models.** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) November 14 widened the scope of its investigation into Saturn Aura models for a possible transmission defect. The probe, which initially launched in May, could cover as many as 88,729 vehicles. The new investigation covers Aura models from the 2007 and 2008 model years and could encompass nearly 89,000 vehicles. The initial investigation was launched after the agency received complaints that the Aura’s automatic transmission cable could fail, preventing the gearbox from engaging park. Seven crashes and one injury have been blamed on the defect. According to complaints, the defect allows the transmission’s shift lever to be placed in the park position, but fails to actually engage. As a result, many people have exited their vehicles thinking it was safely in park, only to have it roll away.

Source: <http://www.leftlanenews.com/nhtsa-expands-investigation-of-saturn-aura-models.html>

11. *November 14, Minneapolis Star-Tribune* – (National) **Smith & Wesson recalls Thompson Center Venture rifles.** Smith & Wesson is recalling all Thompson Center Venture rifles manufactured before October 28, according to the company, Guns.com, and the Minneapolis Star-Tribune November 14. During an internal technical review, Smith & Wesson identified a condition that may exist with the sear supplied with some rifles that would allow the rifle to fire without the trigger being pulled. The new announcement broadens the recall announced by Smith & Wesson November 8. Any unintended discharge of a firearm has the potential to cause injury or death, and the company asked consumers to stop using the affected rifles until the sear is inspected for the defect. Smith & Wesson is offering a free inspection and repair of the rifles.
Source: <http://www.startribune.com/sports/blogs/133810523.html>
12. *November 14, Consumerist* – (National) **Apple will replace first-gen iPod Nanos for overheating risks.** Apple announced a recall November 11 for the first-generation iPod Nano sold between September 2005 and December 2006 due to battery heating issues. Apple said that “the battery in the iPod Nano (1st generation) may overheat and pose a safety risk” due to a battery defect. “While the possibility of an incident is rare, the likelihood increases as the battery ages,” Apple said on its Web site. A claim form was made available for owners to receive a replacement for the defective model.
Source: <http://consumerist.com/2011/11/apple-launches-worldwide-replacement-program-for-first-generation-ipod-nano.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *November 15, Middletown Times Herald-Record* – (New York; International) **State police charge NYC man in ID theft case with local ties.** New York State police have charged a man with felony identity theft following an investigation involving stolen credit card information, Russian computer hackers, and a Smoker’s Choice cigarette store, the Middletown Times Herald-Record reported November 15. The suspect was arrested right after being released from Columbia County Jail in connection with a victim whose credit card number was used at a Walmart in Greenport to buy gift cards. Police said that more than 200 residents in the Columbia County area had credit card numbers stolen in August and used illegally. After investigating, police said they found a Columbia County Smoker’s Choice cigarette store in Greenport was involved. State police said the business fully cooperated and let them review computers at the firm’s headquarters. Analysis showed the computers were broken into by hackers in Russia.

Police are investigating the suspect's connection to the hackers. In September, the suspect pleaded guilty to felony attempted second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument after trying to buy gift cards from a Wallkill Walmart with forged credit cards.

Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111115/NEWS/111119853/-1/SITEMAP>

14. *November 15, threatpost* – (National) **IRS security deficiencies may put taxpayer data at risk.** Information security failings are making it impossible for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to get its financial house in order and could be putting taxpayers' sensitive information at risk, according to a financial audit of the agency by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released November 10. Deficiencies in information security continued to constitute material weaknesses in the IRS's internal control over the 2010-2011 fiscal year, as the IRS made meager progress addressing security concerns identified in previous audits. The GAO estimates the IRS corrected only 15 percent of the 105 previous security related recommendations from previous reviews. Past audits have revealed the IRS has difficulty maintaining control over and access to automated systems and software it uses to process financial transactions, produce internal and external financial reports, and safeguard related sensitive data. The "IRS was limited in its ability to provide reasonable assurance that ... proprietary financial and taxpayer information was appropriately safeguarded," the GAO found. According to the audit, the GAO claims material weaknesses in security limited the IRS's ability to reasonably ensure financial statements are fairly presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, that financial information relied upon by management in day-to-day decision making is current, complete, and accurate, and that proprietary data being processed by automated systems is appropriately safeguarded. "These issues increase the risk of unauthorized individuals accessing, altering, or abusing proprietary IRS programs and electronic data and taxpayer information," the report states.
Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/irs-security-deficiencies-may-put-taxpayer-data-risk-111411
15. *November 14, U.S. Federal Trade Commission* – (Nevada) **FTC wins \$29.8 million judgment in bogus government grant case.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has won a \$29.8 million judgment against the remaining defendants behind a deceptive marketing operation known as Grant Connect, the FTC announced November 14. The court's order also permanently bans the defendants from promoting a variety of products and services similar to those they deceptively pitched to consumers around the country. The FTC charged the defendants with deceiving consumers by making misleading and unsubstantiated claims about bogus products and services, including one that supposedly would help them get free government grants. The U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada found the defendants marketed their grant products using pictures of the U.S. President and the American flag to bolster the impression billions of dollars in free government grants were available quickly and easily for personal needs. The court also found the defendants: deceptively marketed dietary supplements using claims unsupported by scientific research; failed to adequately

disclose their credit offers were merely memberships to a shopping club; made unsupported claims consumers could earn thousands of dollars per month with a work-from-home business opportunity; failed to adequately disclose consumers who bought their products or services would be enrolled in continuity plans with significant monthly fees, often for a variety of unrelated products; used fake testimonials to promote products; and debited consumers' bank accounts on a recurring basis without obtaining consumers' permission. The court order grants the FTC's motion for summary judgment against seven defendants, and 18 affiliated companies.

Source: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2011/11/grantconnect.shtm>

16. *November 14, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission* – (National) **SEC charges Philadelphia-based business owner for defrauding investors through an offering scheme involving U.S. Treasury STRIPS.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) November 14 filed a complaint in federal court in the Southern District of New York charging a businessman and his company TL Gilliams, LLC (TLG) with fraud for misappropriating about \$5 million from investors through an offering scheme involving U.S. Treasury Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal Securities (STRIPS). According to the complaint, the businessman and TLG, from at least June 2010 through April 2011, claimed to have a STRIPS Trading Program. The businessman claimed he would pool and use investor money to engage in large purchases and sales of STRIPS, and that the program would yield weekly returns of 5 percent and was virtually risk-free. The complaint alleges he did not invest any funds received from investors in Treasury STRIPS, but rather used the money to support his lavish lifestyle. In February 2011, the complaint alleges he filed paperwork with the SEC indicating TLG's intent to raise an "indefinite" amount of funds from investors in connection with the "Black Fox Fund," an unregistered entity he created. The complaint also alleges he used a series of middlemen who had access to investors or who controlled investment funds. He promised the middlemen finder fees, and paid some of them from the \$5 million he ultimately obtained. He provided the middlemen and potential investors detailed data about his own experience trading STRIPS and his purported STRIPS Trading Program, including information regarding investment minimums, the expected trading frequency, and the expected rate of returns. According to the complaint, nearly all of the data was false. The SEC seeks injunctive relief, disgorgement, prejudgment interest, and civil penalties. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York also filed an indictment November 14 charging the man with wire fraud and securities fraud.

Source: <http://www.sec.gov/litigation/litreleases/2011/lr22152.htm>

17. *November 10, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah; California; West Virginia) **Utah man pleads guilty to mortgage fraud.** A Utah man pleaded guilty November 10 in West Virginia federal court to criminal charges in connection with a mortgage fraud scheme. The man pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bank fraud involving properties in Hurricane, West Virginia. He also pleaded guilty to mail fraud stemming from dealings in Modesto, California. The defendant operated a company called "The Gift Program" in the early and mid-2000s that he claimed completed deals where sellers paid down payments and initial mortgage payments on real estate. However, he admitted he instead used it to defraud lenders by obtaining inflated appraisals and not

informing them that part of the loan was going to down payments and initial mortgage payments. Also, he admitted an associate was part of the scheme, the U.S. attorney's office in Charleston, West Virginia said in a news release. The associate allegedly found investors to purchase properties at fraudulently inflated prices, and the defendant then used The Gift Program to fund the transaction. Investors eventually defaulted on the loans, costing the lender \$2 million. The defendant also admitted he illegally flipped 20 properties in Modesto with losses in excess of \$5.5 million. He faces up to 60 years in prison, and a \$2 million fine.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/money/52890859-79/fraud-hurd-guilty-mortgage.html.csp>

18. *November 10, KNBC 4 Los Angeles* – (California) **Geezer Bandit strikes again.** The “Geezer Bandit” appeared to be back in familiar territory in the San Diego-area, KNBC 4 Los Angeles reported November 10. The bandit entered a Wells Fargo Bank inside a La Jolla Vons at 7544 Girard Avenue September 30 at about 6:30 p.m., the FBI said. He was armed with a black revolver and wearing large glasses with a gray suit over his thin build. The FBI reminded the public about a \$20,000 reward to help nab the “Geezer,” so named because he appears to be older. He is suspected of robbing 15 banks in California. The original reward came after the bandit struck for the 14th time at a bank in Morro Bay in May, the FBI said. He is suspected of pulling off 10 other San Diego-area heists in cities including Poway, Santee, and Carmel Valley since 2009. His image has been caught on surveillance videos in banks in Temecula, Bakersfield, and Goleta. Witnesses describe the bandit as an older man who appeared to be in his 60s or 70s. Police, however, believe the suspect may be using a disguise to age his appearance. The robber, who had threatened bank tellers with what appeared to be a revolver, has also been seen carrying an oxygen tank, according to the FBI.

Source: <http://www.nbclsanangeles.com/news/local/20000-Reward-Geezer-Bandit-Strikes-Again-San-Diego-FBI-Bank-Robber-133624573.html>

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Transportation Sector

19. *November 15, Government Security News* – (Texas; International) **Texas man who sought to help AQAP convicted.** A federal judge convicted a 30-year-old former college student of trying to help support Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) November 14. After acting as his own attorney in a 4-day trial at a federal courthouse in southern Texas, the convict, a resident of Hempstead, Texas, and former student at Prairie View A&M University, was convicted of providing material support to AQAP. His conviction marked the end to a long-term investigation by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force that showed he acted as a recruiter for AQAP and pursued a goal of “violent jihad,” said a Department of Justice statement. He was arrested May 30, 2010, after he traveled to Houston for what he thought was a chance to stowaway on ship bound for Algeria and then on to Yemen to fight for AQAP. He was also convicted on an identity theft charge, stemming from the use of a fake transportation worker

identity card, which he believed to be a card issued by the Transportation Security Administration, that he used to access the Port of Houston.

Source:

http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/24988?c=law_enforcement_first_responders

20. *November 15, Topeka Capital-Journal* – (Kansas) **Cleanup under way after 32 cars derail in Topeka.** Clean up is underway of 32 railroad cars near Grantville, Kansas, after 22 hopper cars from a 142-car, Union Pacific train hauling coal from Wyoming to East St. Louis, Missouri, left the rails and derailed 10 empty cars from a westbound, 122-car train late November 14. The cause of the mishap is under investigation, and crews were working to restore train traffic by late afternoon November 15, after workers replace about 600 feet of track on each line.

Source: <http://cjonline.com/news/2011-11-15/32-rail-cars-derailed-near-grantville#.TsKPCFaO7To>

21. *November 15, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Caltrans fires two over structural testing issues.** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has fired two employees amid investigations into faulty — and in some instances falsified — structural testing on bridges and highway projects across the state, including a carpool lane connector and an under-crossing retaining wall in the Los Angeles area. During a news conference November 14, Caltrans officials identified the employees as a former technician who tested bridge and freeway structures, and the head of the agency’s foundation testing unit who supervised him. The firings coincide with investigations by the Sacramento Bee newspaper, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Caltrans. Agency officials said the technician was terminated because of fabrications, and the supervisor was fired for “misusing state materials.” The Bee reported November 12 that at least three fabrications and other errors by the technician raised questions about the integrity of dozens of bridges and freeway structures in California, including the main tower of the new San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The acting Caltrans director said the agency reexamined the Bay Bridge tower, as well as projects with fabricated test data, and concluded they are structurally sound. In Southern California, the technician reportedly falsified 2007 test data for a retaining wall at the Braddock Drive under-crossing for the San Diego Freeway in West Los Angeles. After questions were raised, Caltrans officials said, the wall was rebuilt. The technician also fabricated test results in 2008 for a ramp on the Riverside Freeway at La Sierra Avenue in Riverside, the Bee reported. The falsification was discovered and the ramp was satisfactorily retested.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-caltrans-firings-20111115,0,295565.story>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *November 15, Cincinnati Enquirer* – (Ohio) **Restaurant owner injured in explosion.** An explosion November 13 in Clifton Heights, Ohio caused the front of a restaurant to be destroyed and debris blown out into the street. Natural gas was not the cause of the explosion, officials said November 14, and it was unknown whether there was anything suspicious about the incident at the Jerusalem Restaurant. The small fire and explosion injured the business' owner, and caused about \$60,000 in damage to the building. Local and federal investigators spent about 10 hours collecting clues before clearing the scene, said a spokesman for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The Cincinnati Fire Department requested that the agency assist in the investigation.
Source: <http://nky.cincinnati.com/article/AB/20111114/NEWS01/311150010/Duke-Gas-leak-didn-t-cause-explosion?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>
23. *November 14, WTVF 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Police: Man threw Molotov cocktail inside restaurant.** Employees had to chase down a man who allegedly threw a Molotov cocktail into a pizza restaurant in Nashville, Tennessee, late November 13 and started a fire. Police said the suspect got into an argument at the restaurant about his meal. He was escorted from the restaurant after throwing condiments off the counter. He later returned to the restaurant with a Molotov cocktail, threw it inside, and flammable liquid got on the floor and walls, and sparked a fire. A small fire was put out quickly, but the Metro Bomb Squad was called out. Police said the suspect will be charged with aggravated arson and possession of a prohibited explosive weapon.
Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/story/16031712/police-man-set-molotov-cocktail-on-fire-inside-restaurant>
24. *November 12, Associated Press* – (National) **Recall: Plastic in Wegmans mashed sweet potatoes.** Wegmans Food Markets said 4,000 pounds of its mashed sweet potatoes were being recalled because of possible contamination with pieces of white plastic, the Associated Press reported November 12. The Rochester, New York-based grocery chain said the sweet potatoes packaged in 24-ounce plastic trays were sold between September 22 and November 9 in dairy departments at its stores in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, and Massachusetts. They were recalled by supplier Orval Kent Foods of Wheeling, Illinois. Wegmans said four consumers complained about the plastic bits.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-ap-ny-wegmansrecall,0,5916954.story>

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Water Sector

25. *November 14, Mount Airy News* – (North Carolina) **Another sewage spill reported in city.** A waste spill occurred November 7 in Mount Airy, North Carolina, the third in the city in less than 2 months. Tributaries of the Ararat River have been affected in all three cases. The latest incident occurred in the northwestern section of town. It was determined 3,810 gallons of untreated wastewater spilled into an unnamed tributary river. Crews responded immediately, assessed the damage, and repaired the line, according to an official city government notification of the incident. The site was then inspected and determined to be free of any environmental damage. One day after the event, the North Carolina Division of Water Quality was notified and the state agency was still reviewing the matter at last report. This spill was the third reported since September 19. Municipal personnel were notified on that day that 4,500 gallons of untreated sewage had been released into a nearby stream from a damaged sewer line. The city was notified of another wastewater release October 3 from a sewer line. Source: http://www.mtairynews.com/view/full_story/16432558/article-Another-sewage-spill-reported-in-city?instance=secondary_news_left_column
26. *November 14, WYMT 57 Hazard* – (Kentucky) **Cumberland water customers encouraged to conserve.** During the week of November 7, one of Cumberland, Kentucky's water pumps went out, leaving them dependent on the only remaining pump to supply water to all of their customers. A malfunctioning pump is now causing more trouble. When the pump does not work, it causes the plant to back up and sends water into the river. That's happened many times before and created problems between the city and the state. Cumberland's mayor said nearly \$500,000 in upgrades are needed, but the city cannot afford to pay that. They do have a replacement pump headed their way for the water treatment plant and hope to start repairs at the sewage treatment plant to keep it going. The new pump is expected to be installed November 17, but officials said anyone who is on the city of Cumberland's water line must conserve until then. The short-term repairs to the water and sewage plants will cost upwards of \$40,000. Source: http://www.wkyt.com/wymtnews/headlines/Cumberland_water_customers_encouraged_to_conserve_133843003.html
27. *November 14, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **446,000 gallons sewage spilled in Gwynns Falls.** A sewer overflow in southwest Baltimore spilled an estimated 446,000 gallons of untreated waste into the Gwynns Falls November 13, city officials reported November 14. A department of public works spokesman said officials suspect the 27-inch main overflowed because of an as-yet unidentified blockage. The overflow at Wilkens Avenue and South Dukeland Street was reported at 3 p.m. November 13 and continued until crews were able to divert the sewage flow to another line around 11:15 p.m. An investigation continues to find and fix the blockage, a public works spokesman said. Hurley Avenue at Wilkens, meanwhile, remained closed while the city continued pumping operations to divert the sewage. Source: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-11-14/features/bs-gr-sewage-spill-20111114_1_gwynns-falls-sewage-flow-sewer-overflow

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

See item [8](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *November 15, Hawaii News Now* – (Hawaii) **HPD bomb unit, HFD hazmat team respond to suspicious package at UH Manoa.** Some classes at the University of Hawaii (UH) at Manoa were disrupted November 13 after the discovery of a suspicious package. The FBI said it was the fifth such package found on campus in the past week. UH campus security shut down Maile Way near East-West Road as the Honolulu Fire Department haz-mat team prepared to examine a suspicious package left in the loading dock of the Paradise Palms Cafe. The discovery forced the evacuation of the eatery, Hamilton Library, and three classroom buildings. Authorities said the outside of the package had similar handwriting to the four that were found on the Manoa campus November 7. The others did not contain anything harmful or threatening. More than three hours after the initial call, the all-clear was given. The package containing papers was harmless.

Source: <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/16036339/fbi-investigates-suspicious-package-at-uh>

29. *November 15, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Man breaches security at Allegheny County Courthouse.** A breach in security at the Allegheny County courthouse November 13 allowed a man with a lengthy criminal history of burglaries, trespass, and theft to walk through a door left ajar and then wander unencumbered through many offices to steal small electronics and other items, officials said. The county sheriff said the suspect is considered to be a “serial office building burglar.” The sheriff said the breach in security could have been worse. “It could be catastrophic if someone smuggled a gun in here” in an effort to facilitate a defendant’s escape or to possibly harm a judge, attorney or witness, he said. The city conducted a sweep of the courthouse after the incident to ensure no weapons had been taken into the building. The suspect was arrested after the assistant district attorney found the man coming out of prosecutors’ offices. An investigation is being conducted to see how the incident occurred.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11319/1190004-53.stm>

30. *November 14, United Press International* – (International) **Credit card scam targets 330 on Navy base.** At least 330 customers at a Chili’s restaurant on a U.S. Navy base in Japan were hit by fraudulent charges in a credit card hacking scam, officials said November 14. The victims, customers at the Yokosuka Naval Base Chili’s, have reported about \$190,000 in fraudulent charges to the Naval Criminal Investigative

Service since the investigation started October 4, Stars and Stripes reported. The number of victims is expected to grow. More of the restaurant's customers could be victimized, and some might have reported fraudulent charges only to their banks or credit unions, officials said. It remained unclear when the hacking of the restaurant's credit card server occurred, but Chili's officials said in a statement this month it happened "somewhere most likely outside of Japan." Fraudulent charges were continuing to appear on customers' statements in the past week, Stars and Stripes reported November 14. Chili's Yokosuka said it would be "installing a new system with increased security measures to further protect our guests from future credit card fraud."

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2011/11/14/Credit-card-scam-targets-330-on-Navy-base/UPI-18491321298731/?spt=hs&or=tn

For more stories, see items [6](#) and [39](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *November 15, Clovis News Journal* – (New Mexico) **Escape problems continue to plague N.M. jail.** At least one Curry County, New Mexico jail employee has been placed on paid administrative leave and "more than one" appears to have violated county policy in connection with a November 13 jail escape, the county manager said November 14. The inmate police described as "dangerous" ran out an unsecured door when a detention officer became "distracted" during a work detail, officials have said. The inmate ran away at 1:23 a.m. November 13, and was captured by law officers about 7:45 p.m. that same day. The undersheriff said he was found hiding in the attic of a relative's home. Sheriff's deputies and Clovis police officers returned him to jail without incident, he said. "It is my understanding that a detention officer was supervising the three inmates, but became distracted prior to the escape," the undersheriff said. The assistant county manager said county officials November 13 were conducting an "administrative investigation". The November 13 escape was the 14th by inmates in custody of Curry County jail officials since 2002. Officials have cited poor construction of the facility, limitations in organizing inmates within the facility, and overcrowding as ongoing reasons for the jail's problems.

Source: <http://www.officer.com/news/10450947/escape-problems-continue-to-plague-nm-jail>

32. *November 15, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* – (Indiana) **2 Fort Wayne officers to be suspended for alcohol violations.** Two Fort Wayne, Indiana, police officers were recommended for disciplinary action after alcohol violations November 14. One of the officers showed up to work with alcohol on his breath on more than one occasion, and will be suspended for 180 days. In June, he submitted to a breath test and had a blood-alcohol content of 0.03 percent. He admitted to having 12 or more beers within about 12 hours. In September 2009, he received a 5-day suspension for the same offense. The other officer received a 5-day suspension after he was pulled over as a suspected intoxicated driver by two city officers. They called another supervisor, who arrived and

called a captain. Instead of coming to the scene or making a recommendation, the captain deferred to the officers. The city officers then transported the man home. He was never given a breath test. The officer "... should have been treated the same (as a civilian), but that didn't happen because of a breakdown in our command system," the chief of police said.

Source: <http://www.news-sentinel.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111115/NEWS/111119810>

33. *November 14, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. prison guard pleads in phone-smuggling case.** A California prison guard has pleaded guilty to a federal crime stemming from allegations he took bribes from inmates to smuggle tobacco and cell phones. The U.S. attorney's office in Sacramento said the guard faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison after pleading guilty November 14 to a single count of honest-services wire fraud for taking payments in exchange for sneaking tobacco and telephones into prison. He was charged with federal crimes because the allegations included money crossing state lines. He was indicted on six charges alleging he took nearly \$16,000 to smuggle the contraband into the California Correctional Center in Susanville. He acknowledged the single charge under a plea agreement. Sentencing is scheduled for February 6.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/11/14/4054560/calif-prison-guard-pleads-in-phone.html>

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Information Technology Sector

34. *November 15, Network World* – (International) **Researchers find new way to hide messages in VoIP.** Researchers have devised a new scheme for hiding secret data within VoIP packets, making it possible to carry on legitimate voice conversations while stolen data piggybacks on the call undetected, making its way to thieves on the outside. Called transcoding steganography or TranSteg, the method calls for setting a larger-than-necessary payload space in VoIP packets and using the extra room to carry covert messages. In their experiment, the researchers could send 2.2MB of covert data in each direction during an average 7-minute phone call.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9221832/Researchers_find_new_way_to_hide_messages_in_VoIP

35. *November 15, Softpedia* – (International) **Worm comes as Office Genuine Advantage Checker on IM.** An executable file that usually comes through instant messaging applications, pretending to be an Office Genuine Advantage (OGA) Checker, turns out to be a malicious worm that opens a backdoor to allow attackers to take over a machine. Bitdefender researchers report the file, programmed in Visual Basic, comes as an executable called office_genuine(dot)exe and even though Microsoft retired its OGA program almost a year ago, the application that pretends to check the legitimacy of Office products is still circulating. The piece of malware, identified as Win32.Worm.Coidung.B, is also paired with a file infector detected as Win32.Virtob. It

is not yet certain if they were combined on purpose or if the latter was attached by mistake. As soon as it is executed, the worm disables the operating system's firewall and opens a gateway through which further commands are issued. After gaining control of the system, the attacker can do anything from DoS to data theft. By copying itself into several hidden locations, including the registries and the start-up folder, the virus makes sure that every time the computer starts, it can perform its malicious functions. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Worm-Comes-as-Office-Genuine-Advantage-Checker-on-IM-234747.shtml>

36. *November 14, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Google overtakes Microsoft in reported security vulnerabilities.** Google overtook Microsoft in having the largest number of reported vulnerabilities in its products, according to the latest quarterly Threat Roundup from Trend Micro. Total reported vulnerabilities increased from 901 in the second quarter of 2011 to 990 in the third quarter, and Google's quota jumped from 65 to 82 to put the company into the top spot ahead of Oracle and Microsoft. The number of reported Microsoft vulnerabilities fell from 96 to 58, while Oracle saw a spike from 50 to 63, placing it in second place. Trend Micro explained the jump in Google security problems was caused mainly by the Chrome browser, but that none of the flaws in Chrome was as severe as those in Microsoft products. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2124770/google-security-vulnerabilities-jump-microsoft>
37. *November 14, threatpost* – (International) **TDSS rootkit and DNSChanger: An unholy alliance.** One of the newer jobs the TDSS rootkit has been assigned is to deliver the DNSChanger trojan. The malware's main function is to hijack the victim's Web traffic by changing the DNS settings on the infected machine, redirecting the user to malicious sites rather than whichever ones he/she is aiming to visit. Once the trojan has changed the DNS configuration on the machine, DNS queries from the PC will be redirected to the attacker-controlled DNS servers, allowing the attackers to force the user to visit malicious sites. The attackers can use that traffic for a number of things, including installing other pieces of malware or as part of a pay-per-click ad fraud scheme. Researchers at Dell's Secureworks unit said they have been seeing between 600,000 and 1 million unique IP addresses infected with the DNSChanger trojan in recent weeks, and they have seen TDSS downloading and installing the trojan. Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/tdss-rootkit-and-dnschanger-unholy-alliance-111411
38. *November 14, Softpedia* – (International) **Anonymous' Fawkes Virus found on Facebook.** Researchers from Bitdefender stumbled upon what they believe to be the Fawkes Virus, advertised by Anonymous recently in a video. Not long after the video announcement was launched online, experts from the security company came across a Facebook scam that promised a New Facebook Video Chat with Voice Features and an Arabic description. The links from the advertisement led to a file called scan_facebook(dot)zip. The innocent looking archive actually contained a variant of the malicious software detected by Bitdefender back in July as Backdoor-Bifrose-AAJX. This appears to be the Fawkes Virus since it comes via Facebook and it acts as described in the clip. "[It] injects itself in IE process, provides a remote attacker

unhindered access to the compromised system, records keystrokes and kills several processes of known antimalware solutions, if installed on the computer,” the researchers revealed. Even though the malware does not have a self-replication component, it seems to request a connection to a remote server in Egypt, a fact not mentioned in the announcement. Since the threat maintains a low profile and since it is nowhere close to the intensity described by Anonymous, there are two plausible scenarios: either the virus exists on the social network but it does not spread quite like the group claimed, or the whole thing is fabricated and there is no actual worm. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Anonymous-Fawkes-Virus-Found-on-Facebook-234372.shtml>

For another story, see item [41](#)

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

39. *November 14, KWES 9 Midland/Odessa* – (Texas) **Phone service slowly returning to normal in Andrews, Seminole.** Phone service was slowly returning to Andrews and Seminole, Texas, after a day-long outage, KWES 9 Midland/Odessa reported November 14. The phones went down in Andrews the morning of November 14. Residents reported having no land lines or cell phones. Windstream, which services Andrews, said they had 6,000 customers without phones, and the problem occurred on AT&T’s network when a fiber optic line was cut. Windstream said late November 14 that its customers should have been back up and running. Andrews City Hall said they were receiving some calls but still could not make outbound calls. Source: <http://www.newswest9.com/story/16034678/phone-service-slowly-returning-to-normal-in-andrews-seminole>
40. *November 14, Medford Mail Tribune* – (Oregon) **KSKQ experiencing power outage.** The power was out to the antenna transmitting community radio station KSKQ’s 89.5 FM broadcast across the Rogue Valley in Oregon, the Medford Mail Tribune reported November 14. A propane generator, which has been providing power to the antenna on Table Mountain near Hyatt Lake since June 2010, ran out of gas the morning of November 14. The radio station has been waiting months for a response from U.S. Cellular, which owns an antenna on the same mountain, about its request to connect its antenna to a transformer U.S. Cellular uses there. With no word from U.S. Cellular, the station decided to send a propane truck to refill its tank November 11. The truck got stuck in the snow before making it to the top of the mountain, and the propane ran out between 6:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. November 14, killing the station’s FM broadcast.

The radio station broadcast was still streaming live online, and could be heard at its Web site. “KSKQ directors and staff are hoping for the best response when the (U.S. Cellular) letter arrives, and the electricity will be turned on in a day or two after receiving the word — even if the electrician has to go to the site on a snow sled,” a press release said.

Source:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111114/NEWS07/111140327/-1/NEWSMAP>

41. *November 14, Forbes* – (International) **Earthlink follows Blackberry with widespread e-mail outages.** First Blackberry, now Earthlink. The \$730 million Internet service provider experienced “severe” e-mail outages all day November 14, the company announced. Its online support chat system was overloaded, telling callers the next available support staff would be available within the next 70 minutes. The company’s Twitter page was not updated with any news about the outages, but Earthlink subscribers were tweeting about the outage since 11 a.m.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2011/11/14/earthlink-follows-blackberry-with-widespread-email-outages/>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

42. *November 15, NBC News and msnbc.com* – (New York) **200 Occupy protesters arrested as police clear New York camp.** Hours after police officers descended on Zuccotti Park in New York City in a surprise sweep of the Occupy Wall Street headquarters, protesters were locked in a standoff November 15 with police over a court order that would allow them to return with their tents. A hearing on the temporary restraining order, filed by a New York City judge, was underway in the afternoon November 15. The city filed court papers opposing the order and claiming that giving protesters free rein over the park would cause unsafe and unsanitary conditions. They also claimed the occupiers were stockpiling makeshift weapons including metal pipes inside cardboard tubes. In the meantime the New York City mayor told reporters he had not received the order, and the park would remain closed “until we can clarify the situation,” he said. The court order said authorities were prohibited from “preventing protesters from re-entering the park with tents and other property previously utilized.” The mayor claimed the park had become a health and fire safety hazard and that “unfortunately ... (it) became a place not to protest, but to break the law.” Early November 15 hundreds of police officers, some in riot gear, made dozens of arrest. Some protesters were chained to trees and each other but were removed from the park, which was cleared in less than 3 hours. A New York City Police Department spokesman said there were about 200 arrests in the park. People who live near the park said residents near the park were not being allowed out of buildings to watch the eviction, and police were telling doormen to lock up. “There have been reports of businesses being threatened and complaints about noise and unsanitary conditions that

have seriously impacted the quality of life for residents and businesses in this now-thriving neighborhood” the city’s mayor said.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45299622/ns/us_news-life/#.TsKSkVaLPJc

43. *November 14, Associated Press* – (California) **50 Calif. homes evacuated after gas line rupture.** Several blocks of Pismo Beach, California, were evacuated after construction workers ruptured a gas line, causing a dangerous leak, the Associated Press reported November 14. A CalFire engineer said about 50 homes were evacuated November 14 after a contractor digging in a driveway cracked into a three quarters-inch gas line. Workers were able to pinch off the line and stop the leak in about three and a half hours.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/11/14/4054364/50-calif-homes-evacuated-after.html>
44. *November 14, KTUL 8 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Man charged in firebombing of apartment arrested.** A man wanted for allegedly using a Molotov cocktail to start a fire in an occupied Tulsa, Oklahoma, apartment in August has been arrested, KTUL 8 Tulsa reported November 14. Jail booking records show the suspect was arrested by Tulsa County sheriff’s deputies November 14. Police said he kicked in the door of the victim’s apartment and used a Molotov cocktail to set the apartment on fire. He is charged with first-degree arson and first-degree burglary in the incident and was being held on more than \$80,000 bond.
Source: <http://www.ktul.com/story/16040223/man-charged-in-firebombing-of-apartment-arrested>
45. *November 12, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Baltimore police investigate 3 firebombing incidents; no injuries or major damage reported.** Police in Baltimore investigated three overnight incidents November 12 involving firebombs in the northwest section of the city. In the first case, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a first-floor window of a home. It did not enter the home and only partially ignited. The second incident happened moments later when a Molotov cocktail thrown at an apartment window self-extinguished without causing a fire. Police said the third incident occurred, when a Molotov cocktail thrown through a first-floor apartment window set the window on fire. A series of firebombing incidents occurred in Baltimore in September, but did not lead to serious injuries or major property damage.
Source:
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/0e141f3ecd1b41bb8f8621ca99fe8537/MD--Baltimore-Firebombings/>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

46. *November 15, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Texas fire officials predict more large blazes in winter as wildfire season hits 1-year mark.** The devastating Texas wildfire

season reached the 1-year mark November 15, and there appeared to be no end in sight as officials braced for large blazes that could ignite anywhere across the drought-stricken state. Despite a recent lull in fire activity statewide, the threat remained in parts of Texas, so the Texas Forest Service (TFS) is not declaring an end to the wildfire season that started November 15, 2010. Officials are expecting some large fires this winter and next spring because of dead trees and pastures across the bone-dry state, said TFS's predictive services department director. The exact starting and ending dates of wildfire seasons vary each year and do not affect the state fire agency's resources or finances, a TFS spokeswoman said. In 2011, wildfires statewide destroyed nearly 4 million acres and more than 2,900 homes, killing 10 people. September 2010 to 2011 was the driest 12 months on record in the state, and weather experts said the historic dry spell will grip Texas well into 2012.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/texas-fire-officials-predict-more-large-blazes-in-winter-as-wildfire-season-hits-1-year-mark/2011/11/15/gIQA5gqYNN_story.html

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Dams Sector

47. *November 15, Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian* – (Missouri) **Corps working round-the-clock to rebuild Birds Point levee ahead of bad weather.** More than 6 months after the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway levee in Missouri was intentionally breached, the threat of rain has returned, the Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian reported November 15. With storms November 14 and a chance of precipitation predicted for 7 of the next 9 days, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working around the clock to repair the three places it blew with explosives in May. Consecutive days of precipitation would knock the Corps off its November 30 deadline to get the levee repaired to 51 feet on the Cairo, Illinois flood gauge, the project engineer said. That would push back work to get the levee repaired to 55 feet, for which the Corps announced last month it had received \$3 million in additional funds, he added. According to the November 7 project report, the upper crevasse at Birds Point is 96 percent completed, to the 51-foot level, while the lower breach near Donaldson Point Conservation Area is 98 percent done. The center crevasse, near Seven Island Conservation Area, is 57 percent completed, the report said. If the weather turns bad it could cause the earthwork to stop until sometime in February. The Corps has spent more than \$11 million on levee repairs so far.
Source: <http://www.semissourian.com/story/1784327.html>
48. *November 14, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Channel gate, levee best storm defense, study says.** A giant floodgate at the entrance to the Houston Ship Channel, coupled with a 130-mile wetlands recreation area, should be built to protect Houston from hurricane storm surges, a research team from five Texas universities recommended November 14. The 2-year study led by the Severe Storm Prediction, Education, and Evacuation from Disasters Center (SSPEED) at Rice University also recommends a 20-mile levee along Texas 146 and another to protect the bay side on the eastern end of Galveston, already protected on the Gulf of Mexico side by a sea wall. The proposals

are on a much smaller scale than the Ike Dike concept, which envisions a storm gate between Galveston Island and the Bolivar Peninsula coupled with a massive levee protecting both barrier islands.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Channel-gate-levee-best-storm-defense-study-says-2268457.php>

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