



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

07 February 2014

Top Stories

- The owners of the now-defunct Pacific Property Assets were for allegedly using their business to run a Ponzi scheme that caused losses of more than \$110 million involving properties in Arizona and California. – *Los Angeles Times* (See item [7](#))
- Duke Energy stated that coal ash spilling from a stormwater pipe from an old power plant in Eden, North Carolina, continued but at a significantly reduced rate after about 82,000 tons of ash spilled into the Dan River. – *National Public Radio* (See item [15](#))
- Authorities charged 25 individuals in connection with a massive scheme based out of a clinic in New York City which operated as a pill mill and flooded the city's black market with more than \$500 million in painkillers. – *Reuters* (See item [17](#))
- Schools, businesses, and government offices were forced to close, and hundreds of thousands of people were without power, after a second winter storm dumped snow and left ice on trees and power lines across the Northeast. – *Associated Press* (See item [19](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *February 6, KSLA 12 Shreveport* – (Louisiana) **NPSO: Two arrested after copper stolen, sold.** Natchitoches and DeSoto Parish police arrested two Natchitoches metal recycling business owners for allegedly receiving \$200,000 in stolen copper from Dolet Mines and selling it for twice its worth. Authorities also arrested several people in connection with the copper thefts.
Source: <http://www.ksla.com/story/24649709/nps0-two-recycling>
2. *February 5, Associated Press* – (International) **6 utilities, grid operators cited for violations in 2011 southern California blackout.** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission told 6 utilities and grid operators that they violated reliability standards during a September 2011 blackout caused by a failed maintenance procedure at an Arizona Public Service transmission switch yard near Yuma that knocked out power to 2.7 million homes and businesses in Arizona, southern California, and Mexico. The preliminary findings could lead to penalties or requirements to upgrade systems.
Source: <http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/878a6b70855b4db4a526e41d677b79bc/CA--California-Power-Outage>
3. *February 5, Reuters* – (Texas) **Citgo ordered to pay \$2 million for environmental violations in Texas.** Citgo Petroleum Corp was ordered by a U.S. judge February 5 to pay more than \$2 million for violations of U.S. environmental laws over toxic emissions at its Corpus Christi refinery from 1994-2003.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-rt-us-citgo-environment-20140205,0,7950679.story>
4. *February 5, WKBT 8 La Crosse* – (Minnesota) **65-mile long oil leak reported in SE Minn.** Officials are investigating but believe a bad valve from a Canadian Pacific Railway oil tanker caused a 12,000-gallon, 65-mile long oil spill in Winona, Minnesota. Crews are cleaning up the spill and continue to inspect the extent of damage.
Source: http://www.news8000.com/news/65mile-long-oil-leak-reported-in-se-mn/-/326/24293496/-/74wj0bz/-/index.html?hpt=us_bn9

For another story, see item [19](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *February 5, KRWG 23 Las Cruces; Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Underground truck fire at Carlsbad nuclear waste facility.** A truck carrying salt caught fire underground at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad February 5, causing several employees to be taken to a hospital for potential smoke inhalation. Nuclear waste stored at the facility was not impacted.
Source: <http://krwg.org/post/updated-underground-truck-fire-carlsbad-nuclear-waste-facility>
6. *February 5, Quincy Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **Federal agency downgrades Pilgrim nuclear plant.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced February 4 that it downgraded the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth to its degraded cornerstone column after unplanned shutdowns in 2013. Additional NRC inspectors will be assigned to the plant to ensure that issues are addressed.
Source: <http://www.patriotledger.com/article/20140205/News/140208453>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Financial Services Sector

7. *February 5, Los Angeles Times* – (Arizona; California) **FBI arrests two men in alleged \$110-million Ponzi scheme.** The owners of the now-defunct Pacific Property Assets were arrested by FBI agents February 5 for charges filed in a January indictment accusing them of using their business to run a Ponzi scheme that caused losses of more than \$110 million. The scheme allegedly invested in properties in Arizona and southern California beginning in 1999.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/money/la-fi-mo-fbi-arrests-two-in-110-million-oc-ponzi-scheme-20140205,0,7253046.story#axzz2sYTDFvbj>
8. *February 5, Staten Island Advance* – (New York) **Staten Island man convicted in \$5 million investment scam.** A New York City man was convicted on nine counts of fraud for running an investment fraud scheme through a fake company, Grayson Hewitt, that defrauded investors of around \$5 million between May 2010 and April 2012.
Source:

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Transportation Systems Sector

9. *February 6, Associated Press; Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Transportation Department reopens only road into city at end of trans-Alaska pipeline.** The Alaska Transportation Department reopened Richardson Highway in Valdez nearly two weeks after a series of avalanches January 24 caused officials to close the highway. There was no damage to the highway after the snow buildup was cleared.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2014/02/06/transportation-department-reopens-only-road-into-city-at-end-trans-alaska/>
10. *February 6, WBNG 12 Binghamton* – (New York) **New York governor declares statewide State of Emergency.** The governor of New York issued a State of Emergency for New York February 5 due to the winter storm that impacted the region. A full vehicle ban on Interstate 84 between the Pennsylvania and Connecticut borders was also issued for several hours.
Source: <http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Cuomo-declares-state-wide-state-of-emergency--243696081.html>
11. *February 6, Lancaster Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era* – (Pennsylvania, New York) **Amtrak suspends Thursday morning service.** Amtrak's Keystone Service trains suspended service from Harrisburg to New York from February 5 through at least February 6 while workers cleanup debris left on the route from a recent winter storm.
Source: http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/amtrak-suspends-thursday-morning-service/article_e0d5cc4a-8f27-11e3-ac61-0017a43b2370.html
12. *February 6, Wilmington News Journal* – (Delaware) **Tractor-trailer stuck under bridge in Wilmington removed.** CSX resumed operations and two city streets were reopened about 13 hours after a semi-truck became wedged under a railroad bridge in Wilmington February 5.
Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20140206/NEWS15/302060067/Tractor-trailer-stuck-under-bridge-Wilmington-removed>

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Food and Agriculture Sector

13. *February 6, Associated Press* – (Iowa; South Dakota) **Knoxville couple ordered to pay \$1.3M for false wool claims.** An Iowa couple was ordered to pay \$1.38 million after submitting 132 false claims for wool loan deficiency payments for their business,

L. & J. Wool & Fur, while they did not own sheep.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/viewart/20140206/NEWS01/302060090/Knoxville-couple-ordered-to-pay-1-3M-for-false-wool-claims>

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Water and Wastewater Systems Sector

14. *February 6, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Feds reaffirm W. Va. water safe for all.** The acting director of the National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry reaffirmed that water in West Virginia is safe to use for all residents February 5 after a Freedom Industries chemical spill January 9 created a water-use ban for around 300,000 people for about 10 days.
Source: <http://news.msn.com/us/feds-reaffirm-wva-water-safe-for-all>
15. *February 5, National Public Radio* – (North Carolina, Virginia) **More than 80,000 tons of coal ash flow into N.C. river.** Duke Energy stated February 5 that coal ash spilling from a stormwater pipe from an old power plant in Eden, North Carolina, continued but at a significantly less rate after about 82,000 tons of ash spilled into the Dan River beginning February 2. Repairs are underway while crews work to stop the flow.
Source: <http://ksmu.org/npr/more-80000-tons-coal-ash-flow-nc-river>
16. *February 5, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Board approves \$35M for sewage treatment plants.** Maryland's Board of Public Works approved \$35 million February 5 in funding to upgrade sewage treatment plants and septic systems in the State.
Source: <http://www.wral.com/board-approves-35m-for-sewage-treatment-plants/13362105/>

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Healthcare and Public Health Sector

17. *February 5, Reuters* – (New York) **Two dozen charged in \$500 million New York pain-pill scheme.** Authorities charged 25 individuals, including doctors, in connection with a massive scheme based out of the Astramed clinic in New York City which operated as a pill mill and flooded the city's black market with more than \$500 million in painkillers. The clinic sold fake prescriptions to drug dealers and collected money in exchange for fake doctor's visits by phony patients, in order to receive prescriptions for narcotics.
Source: <http://news.msn.com/crime-justice/two-dozen-charged-in-dollar500-million-new-york-pain-pill-scheme>
18. *February 5, KOLO 8 Reno* – (Nevada) **Sparks dental office damaged by fire.**

Pyramid Health Center in Sparks closed indefinitely after a February 4 fire severely damaged five units of a building housing various medical offices.

Source: <http://www.kolotv.com/news/headlines/Business-Fire-in-Sparks-243630871.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

19. *February 6, Associated Press* – (National) **Pa. utility agency says 451K remain without power.** Schools, businesses, and government offices were forced to close February 6 after a second winter storm the week of February 3 dumped snow and left ice on trees and power lines across the Northeast. Utility crews worked to restore power to hundreds of thousands of customers that remained in the dark.

Source: <http://news.msn.com/us/storm-leaves-hundreds-of-thousands-in-the-dark>

20. *February 6, Naples Daily News* – (Florida) **6 Collier students injured in 4-vehicle crash involving school bus.** Six Collier County students and 2 adults were injured in a 4-vehicle crash involving an East Naples Middle School bus in Florida February 5.

Source: <http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2014/feb/05/6-collier-students-injured-4-vehicle-crash-involvi/>

21. *February 5, Charleston Daily Mail* – (West Virginia) **Dozens injured in Fayette County school bus crash.** Twenty-four children were transported to an area hospital for precautionary measure after their Valley High School bus crashed into a rock embankment February 5 in Fayetteville, West Virginia.

Source: <http://www.charlestondailymail.com/policebrfs/201402050223>

22. *February 5, WPSD 6 Paducah* – (Kentucky) **LBL closed due to power outage.** The Lakes National Recreation Area in Golden Pond closed February 5 after winter weather caused a loss of power and water at the park. Staff will assess damages and begin cleanup once service is restored.

Source: <http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/home/ticker/LBL-closed-due-to-power-outage-243736721.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report

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Information Technology Sector

23. *February 6, Help Net Security* – (International) **Insecure file sharing puts corporate data at risk.** Globalscape released the results of a survey of over 500 corporate

professionals and found that in the past 12 months, 63 percent of employees used personal email to send sensitive documents, and that employees frequently used potentially insecure consumer cloud services and sites to store sensitive information, among other findings.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=16318>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@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: <http://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

24. *February 6, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Early morning apartment fire displaces more than a dozen residents.** Several residents had to be rescued from the 4100 Apartments in Tulsa after a fire erupted February 5. One person was treated for smoke inhalation at a local hospital and about 20 residents were displaced by the fire.
Source: http://www.tulsaworld.com/homepagelatest/early-morning-apartment-fire-displaces-more-than-a-dozen-residents/article_d34b9dfa-8f24-11e3-8d2f-001a4bcf6878.html
25. *February 5, Santa Rosa Press Democrat* – (California) **Sprinkler mishap prompts Santa Rosa hotel evacuation.** Firefighters responded to the Hilton Hotel in Santa Rosa after two malfunctioning sprinkler heads released at least 500 gallons of water and flooded more than a dozen rooms. Several guests were evacuated and some relocated as authorities investigated what caused the sprinklers to activate.
Source: <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20140205/articles/140209821>
26. *February 5, KSDK 5 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **Gas explosion at Soulard building.** Contractors working at a Soulard business struck a gas line February 5, which caused at least three explosions and a 2-alarm fire at the building and forced nearby residents and businesses to evacuate. No one was injured by the incident, and crews were able to extinguish the fire after they pinched off the gas line and cut electricity in the area.
Source: <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/02/05/gas-explosion-at-soulard-home/5230825/>
27. *February 4, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Suspected gas leak evacuates Orem rec**

center. Crews repaired a natural gas leak that forced the Orem Fitness Center in Utah to evacuate for nearly 2 hours February.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57495660-78/leak-orem-center-gas.html.csp>

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Dams Sector

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Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to cikr.productfeedback@hq.dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 942-8590
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Contact DHS

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

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

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