



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

24 March 2014

Top Stories

- North Carolina officials announced March 20 that Duke Energy illegally pumped 61 million gallons of contaminated water from its Cape Fear Plant into the Cape Fear River over the course of several months. – *Associated Press* (See item [1](#))
- Tonawanda Coke Corp., in New York was fined \$12.5 million and its former environmental manager was sentenced to 1 year in jail March 19 for knowingly releasing hundreds of tons of benzene into the air and improperly handling hazardous sludge. – *Associated Press* (See item [3](#))
- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) inspector general stated March 20 that over 200,000 individuals have been targeted by the largest phone scam the agency has seen, with over \$1 million stolen by callers claiming to be IRS agents. – *Associated Press* (See item [7](#))
- Authorities are investigating the cause of a March 21 fire at the Mariner's Cove Motor Inn in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, which killed 3 people and injured 8 others, with 10 people remaining unaccounted for. – *Newark Star-Ledger* (See item [24](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *March 20, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Regulators say Duke pumped coal ash into NC river.** The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources announced March 20 that Duke Energy illegally pumped 61 million gallons of contaminated water from its Cape Fear Plant into the Cape Fear River over the course of several months, and issued the utility a formal notice of violation.
Source: <http://news.msn.com/us/regulators-say-duke-pumped-coal-ash-into-nc-river>
2. *March 20, Dickinson Press* – (North Dakota) **Crews cleaning up pipeline oil spill that leaked 400 barrels.** A leak believed to have originated from the seal in a joint of a pipeline at a Hiland Crude LLC facility in McKenzie County released an estimated 16,800 gallons of crude oil March 20, an official with the Division of Water Quality for the North Dakota Department of Health stated. The spill was controlled and crews worked to remove the contaminated soil.
Source: <http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/content/crews-cleaning-pipeline-oil-spill-leaked-400-barrels>
3. *March 19, Associated Press* – (New York) **Coal-burning NY coke plant fined \$12.5M for Clean Air Act violations; manager gets jail, fine.** Tonawanda Coke Corp., was fined \$12.5 million and its former environmental manager was sentenced to 1 year in jail March 19 for knowingly releasing hundreds of tons of carcinogen benzene into the air between 2005 and 2009 and improperly handling hazardous sludge on the ground at its New York plant.
Source: <http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/14d874ed573e4d429b3c3c4fa10f5e73/U S--Air-Pollution-Criminal-Charge>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *March 21, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **Surry reactor goes offline for valve repairs.** The operators of the Surry nuclear power plant in Virginia shut down the plant's Unit 2 reactor March 19 after discovering a leak in a pressurizer spray valve.
Source: http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/state-regional/surry-reactor-goes-offline-for-valve-repairs/article_410c52c8-b048-11e3-97ab-0017a43b2370.html
5. *March 20, Reuters* – (New Mexico; Texas) **Los Alamos lab turns to Texas to temporarily store radioactive waste.** The Los Alamos National Laboratory

announced March 20 that it would send radioactive refuse to the Waste Control Specialists facility in Andrews County, Texas, temporarily while the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico, remains closed after a radiation leak at the facility.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/20/us-usa-radiation-newmexico-idUSBREA2J22320140320>

6. *March 20, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. reactor shut down for valve leak.** The Unit 2 reactor at the Susquehanna nuclear power plant near Berwick was shut down March 20 after a leaking water valve was discovered as the reactor was being brought back online after a planned outage.

Source: <http://www.abc27.com/story/25032248/pa-reactor-shut-down-for-valve-leak>

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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. *March 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Fake IRS agent scam bilks taxpayers of \$1 million.** The inspector general of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) stated March 20 that over 200,000 individuals have been targeted by the largest phone scam the agency has seen, with over \$1 million stolen by callers claiming to be IRS agents. The criminals behind the scam obscure caller ID indicators to make it appear as if they are calling from a legitimate number, and in some cases know the last four digits of targets' Social Security numbers.

Source: http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/finance/fake-irs-agent-scam-bilks-taxpayers-of-million/article_1e830ad1-a47c-59d4-b3d3-c81a936921c2.html

8. *March 20, Clarion Ledger* – (National) **Biloxi attorney pleads guilty to Ponzi-type fraud scheme.** A Biloxi, Mississippi attorney pleaded guilty March 20 to running a Ponzi-like scheme through two companies with offices in several States that he used to commingle trust accounts with personal and business accounts and then divert and obscure the diversion of funds between accounts for his own personal use. Prosecutors are seeking more than \$7.7 million in restitution for victims.

Source: <http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20140320/NEWS/303200030/Biloxi->

[attorney-pleads-guilty-Ponzi-type-fraud-scheme](#)

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Transportation Systems Sector

9. *March 20, Dubois County Herald* – (Indiana) **Crash involving 2 semis, 2 cars closes highway.** Four people were injured in a multi-vehicle accident involving a semi-truck on U.S. 231 in Huntingburg March 20. Indiana police are investigating the wreck that forced the closure of U.S. 231 for more than 2 hours.
Source: <http://duboiscountyherald.com/b/crash-involving-2-semis-2-cars-closes-highway>
10. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **DPS: 1 dead in crash involving semi-truck on US 60 in Mesa.** A March 20 accident involving a semi-truck on the U.S. 60 at the Loop 101 Price Freeway in Mesa left one person dead and prompted the closure of westbound lanes for 6 hours.
Source: <http://www.abc15.com/news/region-southeast-valley/mesa/dps-1-dead-in-crash-involving-semi-truck-on-us-60-in-mesa>
11. *March 20, Southern California City News Service* – (California) **Truck catches fire on I-5 in San Clemente, one dies.** One person was killed March 20 when two vehicles collided in San Clemente and burst into flames, forcing the closure of southbound lanes of Interstate 5 for approximately 6 hours.
Source: <http://oceanside-camp Pendleton.patch.com/groups/police-and-fire/p/truck-catches-fire-on-i5-in-san-clemente-2-lanes-closed-in-each-direction>

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Food and Agriculture Sector

12. *March 21, Sioux City Journal* – (Iowa) **350 hogs killed in Plymouth County fire.** A March 21 blaze in a hog building at a farm in Oyens killed an estimated 350 hogs. Firefighters contained the fire before it spread to surrounding structures.
Source: http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/farm-fire-kills-hogs-in-plymouth-county-iowa/article_bf83c44c-47d6-5627-b6d7-f2a5457e88d6.html
13. *March 20, Napa Valley Register* – (California) **\$400,000 in missing wine leads to warehouse arrest.** A worker at an American Canyon wine warehouse was arrested March 18 and is suspected of stealing more than in \$400,000 wine and selling some of it on the black market. Police recovered 55 cases of wine and found \$73,150 in cash at the suspect's home.
Source: http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/in-missing-wine-leads-to-warehouse-arrest/article_8b719f44-afad-11e3-b10e-0019bb2963f4.html

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Water and Wastewater Systems Sector

14. *March 20, Biloxi Sun Herald* – (Mississippi) **Jackson County breaks ground on water-treatment plant.** Work began March 20 on a \$9.2 million water treatment plant in Jackson County, Mississippi, which will be able to supply drinking water to 1,800 homes in the county. The project is slated to be complete by the summer of 2015.
Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/2014/03/20/5432159/jackson-county-breaks-ground-on.html>

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Healthcare and Public Health Sector

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Government Facilities Sector

15. *March 20, Associated Press* – (New Mexico; Ohio) **NM man pleads guilty to threatening U.S. President.** A New Mexico man pleaded guilty March 20 to making threats against the U.S. President during an October 2013 telephone conversation with an employee of the Social Security Administration in Ohio.
Source: <http://krqe.com/2014/03/20/nm-man-pleads-guilty-to-threatening-obama/>
16. *March 20, Washington Times* – (Washington, D.C.) **Washington Monument to reopen in May after extended earthquake-related repairs.** The U.S. National Park Service announced March 20 that the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., will reopen in May after undergoing repairs prompted by a 2011 earthquake.
Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/20/washington-monument-to-reopen-in-may-after-extende/>
17. *March 20, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **UMCP reports another cybersecurity breach.** The University of Maryland, College Park reported March 20 that the personal information of one senior university official was breached in a cyberattack. The attack was unrelated to a February breach, and the university mitigated the situation and moved several Web sites offline, where they will be relocated to a more secure sever.
Source: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2014-03-20/news/bs-md-umd-another-cyberattack-20140320_1_cybersecurity-previous-security-breach-wylie

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Emergency Services Sector

18. *March 20, South Jersey Times* – (New Jersey) **Pennsville bomb threat empties police station, Walmart, Walgreens.** Police received a phoned bomb threat March 20 from a caller that claimed bombs were placed at the Pennsville Township police station, Walgreens drug store, and Walmart. Authorities ordered all three locations to evacuate for nearly 3 hours while they searched for any explosive devices and cleared the scene. Source: http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2014/03/pennsville_bomb_threat_empties_police_station_walmart_walgreens.html

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Information Technology Sector

19. *March 21, Softpedia* – (International) **GitHub falls victim of another DDoS attack.** GitHub reported March 21 that it was the target of an ongoing distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack and was taking measures to mitigate the attack. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/GitHub-Falls-Victim-of-Another-DDOS-Attack-433465.shtml>
20. *March 20, Threatpost* – (International) **Google encrypts all Gmail connections.** Google announced March 20 that it has switched all Gmail connections to HTTPS, with all connections using SSL encryption in order to protect users' data and privacy from attackers. The change follows Google's encryption of all links between its data centers. Source: <http://threatpost.com/google-encrypts-all-gmail-connections/104918>
21. *March 20, Softpedia* – (International) **BlackOS: New malicious software used by cybercriminals to redirect traffic.** Researchers at Trend Micro analyzed a piece of malware called BlackOS which automates the redirection of traffic from malicious or compromised Web sites. BlackOS started being advertised on underweb forums in February and is based on the "Tale of the North" software. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/BlackOS-New-Malicious-Software-Used-by-Cybercriminals-to-Redirect-Traffic-433325.shtml>
22. *March 19, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (International) **Ex-Microsoft employee charged with passing blogger trade secrets.** A former Microsoft employee was arrested March 19 and charged with allegedly stealing Microsoft trade secrets while working for the company and sharing them with a blogger. Source: <http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Ex-Microsoft-employee-charged-with-passing-5331715.php>

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

23. *March 21, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* – (Indiana) **WBOI transformer damaged in outage.** Officials with Fort Wayne’s public radio station WBOI 89.1 FM reported March 20 that the station will be broadcasting on limited signal strength indefinitely due to a transformer blow out on a power line that left the transmitter damaged.
Source: <http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20140321/LOCAL/140329901/1002/local>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

24. *March 21, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Point Pleasant Beach motel fire kills 3, injures 8.** Authorities are investigating the cause of a March 21 fire at the Mariner’s Cove Motor Inn in Point Pleasant Beach, which killed three people and injured eight others. About 40 guests were staying at the hotel at the time of the blaze, and officials are searching for 10 people who remained unaccounted for.
Source: http://www.nj.com/ocean/index.ssf/2014/03/raging_point_pleasant_beach_motel_fire_kills_2_injures_8.html
25. *March 20, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Alexandria woman, 73, linked to 25 apartment house fires.** A resident of the Southern Towers Apartment complex in Alexandria, Virginia, was arrested and charged March 19 after security footage linked the woman to setting a fire in a trash room March 18. The suspect later admitted to setting 25 fires in the building since May 2013, causing repeated evacuations and about \$55,000 in damage.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/crime/alexandria-woman-73-linked-to-25-apartment-house-fires/2014/03/20/79c1a280-b06b-11e3-9627-c65021d6d572_story.html
26. *March 20, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Hotel evacuation ends with 4 arrests.** Guests of a Holiday Inn in Dekalb County were forced to evacuate for several hours after police responded to a report of possible drug activity inside a hotel room and found an explosive device during their search. Police cleared the hotel and arrested four suspects found in possession of drugs and weapons and believed to be connected to a string of crimes.
Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/news/hotel-evacuation-ends-with-4-arrests/nfHnJ/>

27. *March 20, Wilmington News Journal* – (Delaware) **Officials clear Wilmington building to remove hazardous material.** HAZMAT crews responded to the Cynwood Apartments in Wilmington, Delaware, March 18 after a refrigeration unit leaked coolant gas and filled the building with a chemical odor. Residents were evacuated and cannot return until HAZMAT crews seal the leak and safely remove the unit from the building.
Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2014/03/20/wilmington-responds-to-possible-haz-mat-problem/6666189/>
28. *March 20, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Two hurt in building collapse at Boston construction site.** Authorities are investigating after a 12th floor roof collapsed to the 5th floor inside a residential building under construction in Boston and three workers were injured March 20. Nearly 120 workers were inside the structure at the time of the incident.
Source: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/03/20/rescue-workers-respond-construction-accident-theater-district/rmpXbayhdtMDKID11LS4tO/story.html>

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Dams Sector

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