



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 June 2007

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- Aero–News Network reports police in Tulsa, Oklahoma, arrested a man Monday, June 25, for pointing a laser at a law enforcement helicopter, a crime that could mean up to five years in prison. (See item [17](#))
- The Associated Press reports a February incident in which noxious fumes were released in the Spokane region's NorthTown Mall is being investigated by the FBI as a possible incident of domestic terrorism. (See item [42](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

**Other:** [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

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

1. *June 27, Miami Herald* — **Two top U.S. oil firms say no to Venezuela's Chávez.** Two of the world's largest oil companies, U.S.–based ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips, refused to sign an agreement with the Venezuelan government to split their heavy crude operations in the Faja region in the heart of Venezuela, the Venezuelan government announced on Tuesday, June 26. "In the case of ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips, their participation in the Faja is over," Venezuelan Energy Minister Rafael Ramírez announced during a signing ceremony for those who agreed to grant the government majority stake over their fields, which lie above the Orinoco River about 125 miles southeast of the country's capital, Caracas. The announcement

came after weeks of talks between the government and several foreign operators in the 600,000 barrels-per-day Faja region. U.S.-based Chevron, Britain's British Petroleum, France's Total and Norway's Statoil all signed with the government, granting it majority stake in the fields that have an estimated value of \$30 billion. PetroCanada joined ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips in their dissent and is leaving Venezuela altogether, Ramírez said. The move is not expected to upset production in the short term but could mean the end of both U.S. companies' longtime presence in Venezuela, the world's sixth largest producer and fourth largest supplier to the United States.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/127/story/152433.html>

2. *June 26, New York Times* — **U.S. creates three centers for biofuel research.** The Department of Energy (DOE) is creating three bioenergy research centers to find new ways to turn plants into fuel. The three centers, which the department described as start-up companies with \$125 million each in capital, will be in Oak Ridge, TN; Madison, WI; and near Berkeley, CA. They will involve numerous universities, national laboratories and private companies. The goal of the centers is to bring new technologies to market within five years. The bioenergy centers will focus on finding naturally occurring microbes that can break down lignin, a component of plants and trees, to give access to the material inside, called cellulose. The cellulose can be converted into ethanol or other liquid fuels, like butanol and biodiesel. said Raymond Orbach, the under secretary for science at the Energy Department. DOE announced Monday that it would help establish laboratories in Texas and Massachusetts to test designs for wind turbine blades up to 300 feet long, about twice the length of blades now in common use.

DOE press release: <http://www.energy.gov/news/5172.htm>

Source: [http://news.com.com/U.S.+creates+three+centers+for+biofuel+research/2100-11392\\_3-6193325.html?tag=nefd.top](http://news.com.com/U.S.+creates+three+centers+for+biofuel+research/2100-11392_3-6193325.html?tag=nefd.top)

3. *June 26, Chronicle Herald (Canada)* — **Taking aim at copper thieves; spray will help utility identify wire.** Nova Scotia Power in Canada demonstrated Monday, June 21, how it will use the new technology, known as DataDot, to combat copper theft, which has risen dramatically since 2006. Each DataDot is outfitted with an electronic code identifying the owner of the copper. There have already been 70 thefts from Nova Scotia Power sites so far this year, compared to a total of 85 thefts for all of 2006, said Garry Theriault, the utility's manager of transmission maintenance. Nova Scotia Power is applying the technology to all of its roughly 300 substations across the province, spraying hundreds of meters of wire inside and outside stations. Theriault said the process will cost thousands of dollars. The cost of replacing damaged electrical grounding systems alone at substations, which runs upwards of \$10,000, would likely justify the cost of the technology. Theriault said Nova Scotia Power's major concern is that thieves are moving their activities closer to the metro region, where a major substation was vandalized last week. New Brunswick Power has also signed up for the microdot technology, Hydro One in Ontario is launching a pilot project and B.C. Hydro has been using it for several months.

Source: <http://thechronicleherald.ca/Business/843642.html>

4. *June 26, Forbes* — **Spanish power firm Iberdrola buys into U.S.** Spanish power company Iberdrola has bought Energy East, the New Gloucester, ME-based utility supplier for a hefty \$4.5 billion in cash, but thinks it is a price worth paying for both a proper foothold in the U.S. market, and an opportunity to avail itself of tax incentives in the renewables market. The deal