

18 August 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. U.S., KYRGYZSTAN SIGN NUCLEAR DETECTOR AGREEMENT: *"The U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration said today that it was set to install radiation detectors at several border locations in Kyrgyzstan as a deterrent against smuggling of nuclear or radiological materials."*

2. COST OF PLANNED BIOLAB INCREASES \$200 MILLION: *"Jamie Johnson, DHS' director of laboratories, attributed the sharp escalation to additional site-specific costs that were not built into the original 2006 authorization from Congress, which added \$75 million to \$140 million. General inflation in construction costs accounted for the rest."*

3. PLUTONIUM FOUND IN MORE BOULDER LAB WORKERS: *"On July 30, a scathing 61-page report said that during testing to enhance America's ability to detect "dirty bombs," plutonium sources were obtained at the NIST facility without management approval and handled by inexperienced and untrained researchers."*

4. STATE WON'T DISTRIBUTE ANTI-NERVE GAS DRUG WITH GAS MASK KITS: *"The Defense Ministry and the Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command will remove injections of atropine from home safety kits that will be distributed to the public beginning in early 2009."*

5. DOUBTS GROW ON FBI'S ANTHRAX EVIDENCE – [FBI TO PRESENT FORENSIC ANALYSIS]: *"Growing doubts from scientists about the strength of the government's case against the late Bruce Ivins, the military researcher named as the anthrax killer, are forcing the Justice Department to begin disclosing more fully the scientific evidence it used to implicate him."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

U.S., KYRGYZSTAN SIGN NUCLEAR DETECTOR AGREEMENT

Global Security Newswire

August 18, 2008

"The U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA] said today that it was set to install radiation detectors at several border locations in Kyrgyzstan as a deterrent against smuggling of nuclear or radiological materials."

"U.S. detection technology has been installed at more than 160 foreign border posts, airports, seaports and other locations under the NNSA Second Line of Defense Program."

The full article can be found at: http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_8_15.html

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COST OF PLANNED BIOLAB INCREASES \$200 MILLION

By Ken Foskett

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

August 15, 2008

"The projected cost of a bioterrorism laboratory for animal diseases sought by Georgia and five other states has shot up at least \$200 million, according to new estimates by the Department of Homeland Security.

The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility received congressional authorization for \$451 million just two years ago, but DHS now says the facility will cost at least \$648 million and as much as \$939 million, depending on where it is located."

"Jamie Johnson, DHS' director of laboratories, attributed the sharp escalation to additional site-specific costs that were not built into the original 2006 authorization from Congress, which added \$75 million to \$140 million. General inflation in construction costs accounted for the rest."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ajc.com/search/content/metro/stories/2008/08/15/biolab.html>

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PLUTONIUM FOUND IN MORE BOULDER LAB WORKERS

By Howard Pankratz

The Denver Post

August 14, 2008

"Plutonium was detected in about half of the 29 people who were near a June 9 plutonium spill at the Boulder campus of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, agency officials said today.

But none of the employees who received internal exposure is expected to experience any clinically significant health impacts, said Laura Ost, NIST spokeswoman."

"On July 30, a scathing 61-page report said that during testing to enhance America's ability to detect "dirty bombs," plutonium sources were obtained at the NIST facility without management approval and handled by inexperienced and untrained researchers.

The result was the spread of plutonium contamination at the NIST lab and into the Boulder municipal sewer system."

The full article can be found at: http://www.denverpost.com/ci_10205149

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STATE WON'T DISTRIBUTE ANTI-NERVE GAS DRUG WITH GAS MASK KITS

By Yuval Azoulay

Haaretz.com

August 14, 2008

"The Defense Ministry and the Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command will remove injections of atropine from home safety kits that will be distributed to the public beginning in early 2009. The move is designed to cut costs of replenishing stockpiles of the kits."

"The defense ministry said that should Israel be threatened with a chemical weapons attack, the drug would be distributed to the general public via health maintenance organizations and at hand-out points throughout the country. "Logistically, it would be very easy," said a defense official. "We could distribute everything within two days and it would prevent the need to trouble the public by dragging it to refresher stations that also cost a lot of money."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1011863.html>

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DOUBTS GROW ON FBI'S ANTHRAX EVIDENCE – [FBI TO PRESENT FORENSIC ANALYSIS]

By Eric Lichtblau and David Johnston

International Herald Tribune

August 16, 2008

"Growing doubts from scientists about the strength of the government's case against the late Bruce Ivins, the military researcher named as the anthrax killer, are forcing the Justice Department to begin disclosing more fully the scientific evidence it used to implicate him.

In the face of the questions, FBI officials have decided to make their first detailed public presentation next week on the forensic science tracing the anthrax used in the 2001 attacks to a flask kept in a refrigerator in Ivins's laboratory at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Many scientists are awaiting those details because so far, they say, the FBI has failed to make a conclusive case."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/08/16/america/anthrax.php>

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