

12 April 2010

Chem-Bio News

1. THREAT TO PAK N-ARSENAL LEAVES INDIA WORRIED: *“India is “very worried” about the security of Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal and the prospect of it “leaking” to terrorist entities like al-Qaida and its affiliates. This will be raised by India on the sidelines of the nuclear security summit, which started here on Monday.”*

2. SAVE THE DATE! AF-DTRA COMBATING WMD THREATS CONFERENCE: *“The USAF Counterproliferation Center invites you to attend its annual Air Force-DTRA Combating WMD Threats Conference at the Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, 18-19 August 2010. More information to follow.”*

3. NANOTECHNOLOGY WATER SENSOR FOR HIGHLY SENSITIVE DETECTION OF CYANIDE: *“Most importantly, this sensing system can work directly in pure aqueous solution, thus enabling monitoring of practical water samples.”*

4. [CAMP LEJEUNE WATER] MORE HOPE FOR AILING VETERANS ; VA PROPOSES CHANGE THAT MAY ADDRESS HERBICIDE ILLNESSES: *“U.S Sens. Richard Burr, R-N.C., and Kay Hagan, D-N.C., along with U.S. Rep. Brad Miller, D-N.C., recently announced the filing of the Janey Ensminger Act. The bill would require Veterans Affairs to provide health care to veterans and their families who developed illnesses from exposure to contaminated well water at Camp Lejeune.”*

5. EPA SEEKS HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY FOR 16 CHEMICALS: *“The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants to tighten its oversight of certain chemical substances by adding 16 chemicals to its Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) list.”*

6. IRAN UNVEILS ‘FASTER’ ENRICHMENT DEVICES: *“Iran has unveiled a new “third generation” of centrifuges capable of enriching uranium much faster than current technology allows.”*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

THREAT TO PAK N-ARSENAL LEAVES INDIA WORRIED

By Indrani Bagchi
April 12, 2010

“India is “very worried” about the security of Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal and the prospect of it “leaking” to terrorist entities like al-Qaida and its affiliates. This will be raised by India on the sidelines of the nuclear security summit, which started here on Monday.

India will flag these concerns, not at open plenary sessions but quietly lobbying with other nations, because the summit technically does not allow for naming specific countries. On the whole, India sees the nuclear summit as a vindication of its long-standing position that the security of nuclear materials is key to ensuring the goals of both non-proliferation and disarmament.”

The full article can be found at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/Threat-to-Pak-N-arsenal-leaves-India-worried/articleshow/5785966.cms>

[Return to Top](#)

SAVE THE DATE! AF-DTRA COMBATING WMD THREATS CONFERENCE

Email Notice
April 09, 2010

“The USAF Counterproliferation Center invites you to attend its annual Air Force-DTRA Combating WMD Threats Conference at the Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, 18-19 August 2010.

More information to follow.”

Link not available.

[Return to Top](#)

NANOTECHNOLOGY WATER SENSOR FOR HIGHLY SENSITIVE DETECTION OF CYANIDE

By Michael Berger

Nanowerk.com

April 09, 2010

“Researchers in China have now developed a relatively simple, cost-effective, environmentally friendly and yet highly sensitive cyanide sensor to test water samples.

"Compared with many current optical chemosensors for cyanide, our gold-nanocluster-based sensing system is very simple in fabrication and operation, without requiring complex organic synthesis and complicated instruments," Lehui Lu explains to Nanowerk. "Besides, the unique Elsner reaction between cyanide and gold atoms in gold nanoclusters surmounts interference from other anions. Most importantly, this sensing system can work directly in pure aqueous solution, thus enabling monitoring of practical water samples."

Lu, a professor in the State Key Laboratory of Electroanalytical Chemistry at the Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and his team have demonstrated their sensing system on several real water samples spiked with cyanide. They found that the lowest concentration their sensor allows to quantify is approximately 14 times lower than the World Health Organization's guideline value for cyanide in drinking water - which is 0.07mg per liter.

The fluorescent sensor, as reported in a recent edition of Advanced Functional Materials ("Gold-Nanocluster-Based Fluorescent Sensors for Highly Sensitive and Selective Detection of Cyanide in Water"), is based upon the cyanide etching-triggered fluorescence quenching of the gold nanoclusters. Lu points out that it can work directly in aqueous solution and does not require any toxic organic reagent as an assistant solvent."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nanowerk.com/spotlight/spotid=15695.php>

[Return to Top](#)

[CAMP LEJEUNE WATER] MORE HOPE FOR AILING VETERANS ; VA PROPOSES CHANGE THAT MAY ADDRESS HERBICIDE ILLNESSES

By Dennis Tatz

The Patriot Ledger on WaterWorld.com

April 10, 2010

“The exposure is so massive," he said. "There are potentially more than one million people affected."

Marines and their families living at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 drank and bathed in water contaminated by known human carcinogens like trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, benzene and vinyl chloride.

U.S Sens. Richard Burr, R-N.C., and Kay Hagan, D-N.C., along with U.S. Rep. Brad Miller, D-N.C., recently announced the filing of the Janey Ensminger Act. The bill would require Veterans Affairs to provide health care to veterans and their families who developed illnesses from exposure to contaminated well water at Camp Lejeune.

The legislation is named after a Marine Corps veteran's 9-year-old daughter who died of leukemia in 1985."

The full article can be found at:

http://www.waterworld.com/index/display/news_display/143542350.html

[Return to Top](#)

EPA SEEKS HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY FOR 16 CHEMICALS

By Rebecca Trager

Chemistry World

April 09, 2010

"The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants to tighten its oversight of certain chemical substances by adding 16 chemicals to its Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) list. The proposal, which is part of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson's campaign to provide communities with more complete information about chemicals, would represent the first expansion of the programme in more than a decade.

TRI is a public EPA database that contains information on toxic chemical releases and waste management activities reported annually by certain industries as well as federal facilities. It houses data on nearly 650 chemicals and chemical groups from about 22,000 industrial facilities in the US.

The EPA says it has reviewed the available studies and concluded that the 16 chemicals in question - which include vinyl chloride and four substances that fall under the polycyclic aromatic compounds (PACs) category involving persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic chemicals - could cause cancer in humans.

Approximately 175 facilities will be affected by the proposals, estimates the EPA. They are expected to file 186 reports containing release and waste management data for the 16 chemicals being proposed for addition....."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/News/2010/April/09041001.asp>

[Return to Top](#)

IRAN UNVEILS 'FASTER' ENRICHMENT DEVICES

Euronews

April 09, 2010

"Iran has unveiled a new "third generation" of centrifuges capable of enriching uranium much faster than current technology allows.

In a speech marking Iran's annual nuclear day the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation claimed the new devices would have a separation power 10 times that of the first generation."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.euronews.net/2010/04/09/iran-unveils-faster-enrichment-devices/>

[Return to Top](#)

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