

Chem-Bio News

- 1. ATOMIC-BLAST DETECTION STATION ESTABLISHED NEAR IRAN (UPDATE1):** "A United Nations group seeking to outlaw nuclear-weapons tests has set up a detection facility near the border between Iran and Turkmenistan that can register the shockwaves of an atomic blast."
- 2. GUIDELINES PROPOSED FOR BUSINESSES TRADING IN CUSTOM-MADE DNA SEQUENCES:** "A set of guidelines for how providers of custom-made DNA sequences do business has been proposed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services."
- 3. NNSA AND THE BORDER POLICE OF ROMANIA COOPERATE TO THWART NUCLEAR SMUGGLING:** "Under a 2008 Implementing Agreement between DOE and the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform of Romania, NNSA's Second Line of Defense Program (SLD) is providing the Romanian Border Police with two vans equipped with radiation detection equipment, along with related handheld detection and isotope identification equipment."
- 4. NAPOLITANO TO RESET DEADLINE FOR FOREIGN CARGO SCANNING:** "Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano confirmed Wednesday that her department will not be able to ensure that all maritime cargo entering U.S. ports will be scanned by 2012, and instead will take advantage of a loophole in the law to push the deadline back by at least two years."
- 5. [UK] DR DAVID KELLY: DOCTORS START LEGAL ACTION FOR NEW INQUEST:** "Six senior doctors have begun legal action to force a new inquest into the death of Dr David Kelly, the scientist who died days after being exposed as the source of a controversial BBC story on the Iraq war."
- 6. DEMOLITION OF FIRST HANFORD PROCESSING CANYON BEGINS:** "DOE approved a plan for demolishing U Plant in central Hanford in 2005, but then decided to focus its budget on environmental cleanup closest to the Columbia River first."
- 7. U.S. TO ANNOUNCE FRAMEWORK FOR BIOWEAPONS TREATY POLICY IN GENEVA:** "The Obama administration is expected to reveal its approach to controlling biological weapons at a key international meeting next week, and a number of experts hope the new U.S. policy will help reduce global vulnerabilities and strengthen implementation of the 1975 Biological Weapons Convention."

CB Daily Report

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ATOMIC-BLAST DETECTION STATION ESTABLISHED NEAR IRAN (UPDATE1)

By Jonathan Tirone
Bloomberg News
December 03, 2009

"A United Nations group seeking to outlaw nuclear-weapons tests has set up a detection facility near the border between Iran and Turkmenistan that can register the shockwaves of an atomic blast.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization built seismic station PS44 near Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, a "few kilometers" from the Central Asian country's southern border with Iran, the Vienna-based group said yesterday in a statement on its Web site. The site adds to the group's 337 stations worldwide designed to detect seismic activity and atmospheric radiation caused by nuclear explosions.

UN inspectors received intelligence material that included Iranian designs for a 400-meter (1,312-foot) deep shaft that could be used for testing a nuclear bomb, the world body's International Atomic Energy Agency said in May 2008. The documents also showed plans for a control station 10 kilometers from the

unidentified blast site, along with diagnostic equipment to monitor an explosion.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=ab_a09nGzc_Y
[Return to Top](#)

GUIDELINES PROPOSED FOR BUSINESSES TRADING IN CUSTOM-MADE DNA SEQUENCES

By Tina Redlup
BioPrepWatch.com
December 01, 2009

“A set of guidelines for how providers of custom-made DNA sequences do business has been proposed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The proposal is the first comprehensive guidance issued by the government addressing bioterrorism concerns resulting from the rapidly developing synthetic genomics industry. Some security experts believe that a terrorist group or lone terrorist believe that bioweapons could be developed from these materials, which are openly available through the internet.

The main recommendation of the guidelines is that synthetic companies should screen both their clients and the DNA sequences that they request. This would allow customers to establish the identity and institutional affiliation of customers.

The proposal also calls for companies to look for red flags, including clients who place several orders of the same sequence within a short time frame, who attempt to pay by cash or who request that the product be mislabeled. Foreign clients, the proposal says, should be screened against terrorist databases and other lists of concern.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.bioprepwatch.com/news/211123>
[Return to Top](#)

NNSA AND THE BORDER POLICE OF ROMANIA COOPERATE TO THWART NUCLEAR SMUGGLING

US National Nuclear Security Administration News Release
December 02, 2009

“Under a 2008 Implementing Agreement between DOE and the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform of Romania, NNSA’s Second Line of Defense Program (SLD) is providing the Romanian Border Police with two vans equipped with radiation detection equipment, along with related handheld detection and isotope identification equipment. SLD also provides training on the use of this equipment. The Romanian Border Police will use the equipment at international points of entry as well as at other locations throughout the country.”

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“The vans with mobile radiation detection equipment are capable of detecting gamma-rays and neutron sources, including highly enriched uranium and plutonium. This new equipment will enable Romanian Border Police to detect, deter and prevent the transfer of nuclear and other radioactive material at Romania’s borders, as well as at other points in Romania where radiation detection is needed.

NNSA’s Second Line of Defense Program works with foreign governments worldwide to install specialized radiation detection equipment and train officials to detect smuggled nuclear and other radioactive materials. Similar equipment has been installed at over 200 sites around the world.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/2733.htm>

[Return to Top](#)

NAPOLITANO TO RESET DEADLINE FOR FOREIGN CARGO SCANNING

By Chris Strohm

CongressDaily on GovernmentExecutive.com

December 03, 2009

“Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano confirmed Wednesday that her department will not be able to ensure that all maritime cargo entering U.S. ports will be scanned by 2012, and instead will take advantage of a loophole in the law to push the deadline back by at least two years.

Democrats put a legal requirement in the first bill they passed after taking control of Congress in 2007 that the Homeland Security Department must ensure that all cargo being shipped from foreign ports to the United States is scanned by nonintrusive inspection equipment by 2012.

Many Republicans said at the time that the requirement would be unworkable.

Napolitano told the Senate Commerce Committee Wednesday that the requirement is not realistic for several reasons, including cost, the lack of adequate technology and the inability to secure agreements with foreign governments.

The department plans to take advantage of a provision in the 2007 legislation that allows it to push the deadline back by two years, Napolitano said.’

The full article can be found at: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1209/120309cdam1.htm>

[Return to Top](#)

[UK] DR DAVID KELLY: DOCTORS START LEGAL ACTION FOR NEW INQUEST

By Andrew Alderson

The Telegraph [UK]

December 05, 2009

“Six senior doctors have begun legal action to force a new inquest into the death of Dr David Kelly, the scientist who died days after being exposed as the source of a controversial BBC story on the Iraq war.”

“Some suspect that Dr Kelly, 59, was murdered shortly after it was revealed that he was the source of a BBC story which alleged that evidence against Iraq had been "sexed up" by the Government in order to justify the 2003 invasion.

The body of Dr Kelly, who was a UN weapons inspector, was found more than six years ago in woods near his Oxfordshire home after he went out for a walk. His wrist had been slashed. He also had painkillers in his bloodstream, although not at a lethal level.

At the time of his death, Dr Kelly was under pressure because it had emerged that he had provided confidential information for the BBC story.

However, in a 13-page dossier prepared as the basis for the legal action, the doctors argue that the bleeding from Dr Kelly's ulnar artery in his left wrist is "highly unlikely" to have caused his death. They say a number of studies have shown that it is unusual for a patient to die from a single deep cut to the wrist.”

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“The doctors are applying to the Attorney General, Baroness Scotland for permission to go to the High Court for a new inquest, or the resumption of the previous inquest.

Their case rests on section 13 of the 1988 Coroners Act, which allows the High Court to order a new inquest, or to resume a previous inquest, in "special cases", including cases where "it is necessary or desirable in the interests of justice".

Unusually, no coroner's inquest was ever held into Dr Kelly's death. Instead, the official verdict of suicide was provided by the Hutton Inquiry, commissioned by Tony Blair, the then-Prime Minister.”

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/6735670/Dr-David-Kelly-doctors-start-legal-action-for-new-inquest.html>

[Return to Top](#)

DEMOLITION OF FIRST HANFORD PROCESSING CANYON BEGINS

By Annette Cary

TriCity Herald

Decemer 06, 2009

“DOE approved a plan for demolishing U Plant in central Hanford in 2005, but then decided to focus its budget on environmental cleanup closest to the Columbia River first.

But with \$1.96 billion in federal economic stimulus money allocated to Hanford, DOE has been able to begin preparing U Plant to be torn down.

It's one of five processing plants at the Hanford nuclear reservation built to chemically separate plutonium from fuel rods irradiated in Hanford reactors for the nation's nuclear weapons program. The plants often are called canyons because of their high ceilings, narrow width and walls as long as the Seattle Space Needle is tall.

The work at U Plant, which is 810 feet long, is planned as a potential model for work at Hanford's other processing plants, said Al Farabee, DOE federal project director.

Plans call for leaving radioactive waste permanently in place as the lower level of the plant is made into a giant waste receptacle for contaminated equipment from the plant.

Then the ceiling and walls will be collapsed and covered with an environmentally protective earthen cap that would form a huge berm standing 40 feet high along the length of the former processing canyon.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.tricityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/819071.html

[Return to Top](#)

U.S. TO ANNOUNCE FRAMEWORK FOR BIOWEAPONS TREATY POLICY IN GENEVA

By Martin Matishak

Global Security Newswire

December 04, 2009

“The Obama administration is expected to reveal its approach to controlling biological weapons at a key international meeting next week, and a number of experts hope the new U.S. policy will help reduce global vulnerabilities and strengthen implementation of the 1975 Biological Weapons Convention.

The pact's 165 member states are expected to gather in an annual meeting taking place Dec. 7-11 in

Geneva, Switzerland. The event could set the tone on global objectives for limiting bioweapons in the run-up to a formal review conference in 2011, according to those following the issue.

The U.S. delegation "will be making an announcement at this meeting on their BWC policy," Richard Lennane, head of the convention's implementation support unit, said in a recent telephone interview.

Over the past year, the White House has been developing its policy toward implementing the compact and "now, apparently, they're going to make some official announcement about what they want out of the convention," according to Lennane, whose organization helps coordinate activities related to the agreement.

In an e-mail message this week, Lennane said a "senior U.S. official" is expected to make the statement on Dec. 9, adding that he had no further details. "But I would expect that at this stage it will be more of a broad framework than anything very specific," Lennane said.

A U.S. National Security Council spokesman this week said there would be no official announcements "at this time," but left open the possibility that additional information could be available next week."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20091204_7111.php

[Return to Top](#)

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