

29 May 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. RUSSIA FEARS KOREA CONFLICT COULD GO NUCLEAR: "Moscow official quoted as saying his country taking precautionary security measures because it fears tensions over North Korea's atomic test could descend into nuclear war."

2. NRC, FEMA EYE DISASTER PLAN CHANGES: "One of the changes, if approved, would require that emergency planners incorporate "hostile actions" into biennial drills."

3. EPA GREEN LIGHTS FIRST ANTIMICROBIAL PESTICIDE AGAINST ANTHRAX: "The Environmental Protection Agency has approved the first registration, or license, of an antimicrobial pesticide product to deactivate anthrax spores on hard surfaces."

4. SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY NEW LETHAL VIRUS IN AFRICA: "Scientists have identified a lethal new virus in Africa that causes bleeding like the dreaded Ebola virus."

Chem-Demil News

1. RUSSIA TO OPEN CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION PLANT: "Since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union left Russia's military underfunded and disorganized, the arsenal in Shchuchye (SHOO-cheh), about 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) east of Moscow, has been a top security concern."

2. PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - SEN. UDALL TO TOUR PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT SATURDAY: "Sen. Mark Udall will tour the Pueblo Chemical Depot this Saturday. He will address reporters afterward, when he's expected to call for increased funding for weapons destruction."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

RUSSIA FEARS KOREA CONFLICT COULD GO NUCLEAR

Ynetnews.com
May 27, 2009

"Moscow official quoted as saying his country taking precautionary security measures because it fears tensions over North Korea's atomic test could descend into nuclear war."

"We are not talking about stepping up military efforts but rather about measures in case a military conflict, perhaps with the use of nuclear weapons, flares up on the Korean Peninsula," he added."

"In the past, Moscow has been reluctant to support Western calls for sanctions. But Russian officials in the United Nations have said that this time the authority of the top international body is at stake.

"We cannot provide cover for any actions that lead to the destabilisation of the non-proliferation regime," Interfax quoted its foreign ministry source as saying.

The Interfax source made clear Russia has not finally made up its mind on the UN vote yet. "We should not subscribe to any specific option beforehand," the source said.

However, the Tass source indicated Russia could back sanctions."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3722406,00.html>

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NRC, FEMA EYE DISASTER PLAN CHANGES

By Bob Audette
Brattleboro Reformer
May 28, 2009

“Concerns over emergency response plans at nuclear power plants around the country have led the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to propose changes to some federal regulations.

One of the changes, if approved, would require that emergency planners incorporate "hostile actions" into biennial drills. The NRC is also suggesting a clarification of the responsibilities of security officers at nuclear power plants.

"Some licensees were utilizing security personnel to implement the emergency plan when many of these responders would likely not be available due to a hostile action," according to the Federal Register notice posted on May 18.

Another change proposed by the NRC would insure that local law enforcement agencies and emergency service providers do not have conflicting responsibilities in the case of a terrorist attack on a nuclear power plant.

While police are expected to help evacuate people from an emergency preparedness zone, they might also be called upon to back up on-site security personnel if such an attack were to happen.

NRC regulations "do not explicitly require licensees to include the hostile action event scenarios in drills and exercises," stated the Federal Register."

The full article can be found at: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_12466722

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EPA GREEN LIGHTS FIRST ANTIMICROBIAL PESTICIDE AGAINST ANTHRAX

US Environmental Protection Agency News Release
May 28, 2009

“The Environmental Protection Agency has approved the first registration, or license, of an antimicrobial pesticide product to deactivate anthrax spores on hard surfaces. “Peridox with the Electrostatic Decontamination System” can decontaminate buildings, structures, vehicles, ships, aircraft, personal protective equipment, and other items infected with anthrax spores. Its use is limited to dry, precleaned, hard, nonporous surfaces.

EPA reviewed extensive data provided by the manufacturer, Clean Earth Technologies, to be sure that the product will be effective and not cause unreasonable adverse effects. EPA also reviewed the labeling of Peridox and associated training materials to ensure that they are consistent with EPA’s Pesticide Registration Notice 2008-2, which specifies the terms and conditions that would apply to anti-anthrax products.”

The full article can be found at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/9A07A5468A7C4905852575C40058D538>

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SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY NEW LETHAL VIRUS IN AFRICA

Physorg.com
May 29, 2009

“Scientists have identified a lethal new virus in Africa that causes bleeding like the dreaded Ebola virus. The so-called "Lujo" virus infected five people in Zambia and South Africa last fall. Four of them died, but a fifth survived, perhaps helped by a medicine recommended by the scientists.

It's not clear how the first person became infected, but the bug comes from a family of viruses found in rodents, said Dr. Ian Lipkin, a Columbia University epidemiologist involved in the discovery.

"This one is really, really aggressive" he said of the virus.

A paper on the virus by Lipkin and his collaborators was published online Thursday on in PLoS Pathogens.

The outbreak started in September, when a female travel agent who lives on the outskirts of Lusaka, Zambia, became ill with a fever-like illness that quickly grew much worse.

She was airlifted to Johannesburg, South Africa, where she died.

A paramedic in Lusaka who treated her also became sick, was transported to Johannesburg and died. The three others infected were health care workers in Johannesburg.

Investigators believe the virus spread from person to person through contact with infected body fluids.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.physorg.com/news162795409.html>

The original article in PloS Pathogens can be found at: <http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000455;jsessionid=DCBC955BA31C763F129CF789C3684B82>
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Chem-Demil News

RUSSIA TO OPEN CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION PLANT

By Jim Hentz
Associated Press in The Seattle Times
May 28, 2009

“The bland buildings in western Siberia contain shelf after shelf of nerve-gas shells - some 2 million in all.

Each could kill tens of thousands of people, if exploded in a tightly packed area. Many are small enough to be spirited away in a briefcase.

Since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union left Russia's military underfunded and disorganized, the arsenal in Shchuchye (SHOO-cheh), about 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) east of Moscow, has been a top security concern. After years of delays and disputes, a vast facility to destroy the weapons is to formally open there on Friday.

The plant, the size of a small town, was built with a U.S. contribution of more than \$1 billion and is seen as a milestone in cooperation on disarmament between Washington and Moscow.”

“But the Shchuchye facility significantly boosts destruction capacity. Russian officials claim it will allow the country to meet its treaty obligations of destroying all chemical weapons by 2012, although Lugar said that goal probably won't be met.”

The full article can be found at:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/text/2009267606_apeurussiachemicalweapons.html

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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - SEN. UDALL TO TOUR PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT SATURDAY

By Bea Karnes

KOAA.com

May 27, 2009

“Sen. Mark Udall will tour the Pueblo Chemical Depot this Saturday. He will address reporters afterward, when he's expected to call for increased funding for weapons destruction.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.koaa.com/aaaa_top_stories/x812774650/Sen-Udall-to-Tour-Pueblo-Chemical-Depot-Saturday

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