# PENNSYLVANIA INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN NO. 124

**13 AUGUST 2010**

*The Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security produces this informational/intelligence bulletin specifically for all potentially-affected stakeholders – whether public or private sector, federal or Commonwealth of Pennsylvania-based Critical Infrastructures, Key Resources and Significant Special Events. Consider the information & intelligence contained herein in context with other known information, indicators, threats and warnings.*

## CONTINUING STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

### 1. *Rainforest Action Network: New Leader, Same Playbook*

To great fanfare, the **RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK** (**RAN**) announced that their newly appointed executive director is Rebecca Tarbotton.[1] Formerly serving as RAN's acting executive director, Tarbotton was originally hired as director of RAN's Global Finance Campaign. The Global Finance Campaign used "leaderless resistance" pressure tactics, ranging from the legal to the criminal, in an attempt to dissuade the banking sector from offering financing to the coal mining industry.

Before her employment at RAN, Tarbotton spent eight years in Ladakh, Northern India, working on supporting "sustainable farm systems." She states that the experience taught her that:

> *"… true solutions, when grounded in deep respect for cultural traditions, ecological wisdom and creativity can both improve quality of life and build a future where people live in harmony with nature.*
>
> *"Corporations don't see any of that. They are structurally disembodied from local realities and are beholden to the bottom line. It's local communities and ecosystems that bear the brunt of this model of doing business, and their destruction rarely shows up on the balance sheet.*

Analysts believe that making Tarbotton the executive director for RAN indicates a continuation of the leaderless resistance pressure program currently favored by the organization. Targets are named and RAN disavows knowledge of the criminal acts

[1] http://ran.org/

perpetrated against the targets. RAN has in the past either escalated, or inspired supporters to escalate, to extremely aggressive tactics in their campaigns, including trespassing, lock-downs and vandalism.

Based on previous trends/patterns, RAN targeting will likely focus on the agricultural, energy and banking industries.

## The Coal Industry

Anti-coal mining activists and related organizations, including RAN, have recently been increasing training and actions targeting the coal industry and related facilities. Training sessions in West Virginia and Virginia have focused on "skills and knowledge" regarding tactics for "direct action."

Earlier this year, RAN called for "actions on campuses, in the streets and out in front of [JP Morgan] Chase's branches and offices around the country ...." Mountaintop removal mining is being partially funded, RAN said, by JP Morgan Chase. Specifically named as beneficiaries of Chase investments were Massey Energy[2] and Arch Coal.[3]

As noted below, the anti-mountain top removal (MTR) campaign targeting banks continues with communications focusing on the Swiss banking giant UBS. Praising their success in forcing the hand of American banks regarding MTR financing, RAN declares, "It's time to finish what we started. Unlike most of its American counterparts, Swiss banking giant UBS is still in the MTR business."

## Alberta Tar Sands

Recent "direct action" training events (PIB No. 100) focused specifically on the Alberta tar sands.[4] Training run by RAN and radical activist organizations such as **THE RUCKUS SOCIETY** helped activists identify "pipelines, refineries, rail, trucking and shipping lanes, and extraction" affecting the "tar sands in northern Alberta."[5]

In March 2010 (PIB No. 55) the RAN declared its intention to "keep the pressure on" the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) over its financing of the Alberta tar sands project. Researchers and analysts have identified several other specific banks funding the Alberta tar sands project that may become targets for RAN "direct action," or worse, in Pennsylvania, including branches of financial institutions such as TD Bank, JP Morgan Chase, Citi Bank, Bank of America and Wells Fargo.

Other financial institutions named in RAN communications include:

- RBC branches in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Scranton, Lancaster, Kennett Square

[2] http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10131/1057258-84.stm (Union County)
[3] http://www.archcoal.com/
[4] http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/294678
[5] http://www.ruckus.org/

- De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc. in Wayne
- Credit Suisse in Conshohocken (300 Conshohocken State Rd.)
- ING Financial Services in West Chester
- HSBC offices on Arch St. and Market St. in Philadelphia.
- Sumitomo offices in Pittsburgh (600 Grant St.)
- BNP Paribas offices in King of Prussia (555 Croton Rd.)

## The Environmental Protection Agency

As noted in PIB No. 121, the RAN has apparently decided to focus attention this month and next on the EPA over what RAN says is the agency's "green light" for mountaintop removal (MTR) mining.

Calling for "taking this message to the streets of Washington DC," the RAN is urging a protest alongside Appalachia Rising on 27 September 2010. "Tell the EPA that it is not acceptable to approve any more mountaintop removal mining permits," the RAN communication says. The trigger for the RAN call to action was EPA approval of MTR blasting at Pine Creek in West Virginia.

Similarly, RAN members held a sit-in at the Washington, DC offices of the EPA on 8 July 2010 (PIB No. 110). Activists collectively sat down in the center of the EPA lobby and locked themselves together with metal "lock boxes" while playing music interspersed with sounds of MTR method explosives. Another RAN member hung an anti-MTR banner from the EPA's front door.

## The Future?

In a January 2010 communication, the RAN noted that an environmentalist training event was being conducted by **CLIMATE GROUND ZERO** and added, "[M]ore actions are expected throughout 2010. It's going to be a kick ass year."[6]

Finally, Mike Brune, the previous RAN executive director, has gone on to head the Sierra Club. His transition to the country's oldest environmental organization indicates a future increase in aggressive activity by this organization as well.

[6] http://climategroundzero.net/

# SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

## *COMMERCIAL FACILITIES*

### 2. *'Jihad' and 'Direct Action' Against Movie Industry*

Analysts have identified communications that call for terrorism or vandalism in response to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency campaign called *Operation In Our Sites*, initiated to fight online movie piracy.[7]

As part of its efforts to combat movie piracy, ICE effectively disabled nine different pirating websites, and seized bank, PayPal and advertising accounts associated with these websites. Several arrests of individuals running such sites have already been reported throughout the US. American officials noted that future prosecutions could target individuals who illegally download movies from such sites.

Since the announcement of the ICE operation, on 30 June 2010 in Walt Disney's Burbank studios, rising hostility toward movie industry corporations has been noted, with a specific focus on Disney; a conspiratorial tone in some of these communications is indicated.

An intercepted 9 August 2010 communication said, *spelling and grammar in the original*): "Jihad against commercial america! September 11th was just the beginning, and while the government takes it's time and resources shutting down video websites, preparations are surely being made to KILL MANY MORE! Fuck yanks."

Another communication asked: "How can we get the 'Operation In Our Sites' initiative shut down?" An anarchist suggested "hitting back," rather than relying on legal protest. On 20 July 2010 he wrote:

> "People power - you know what that is, right?? Direct action. Find out everyone who contributed to this little scheme - and you fuck with their business. Make their working life a living hell. The **ALF** [**ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT**][8] developed some pretty effective tactics along these lines - where they didn't just go for the animal testing labs, they went for their customers places of work too, and their suppliers, neighbours and business partners, and anyone else they could think of. It became literally impossible for the labs to continue as a functioning place of business. So they folded and gave in to demands. Something like that would be my suggestion - you make it so that enforcing this ridiculous restriction of freedom becomes so expensive, and such a hassle for them that they HAVE to desist. You don't need high priced lawyers for that - you just need a large enough group of people who won't take any shit, some perseverence and a bit of imagination. Hell ... it's even fun."

[7] http://www.ice.gov/pi/nr/1006/100630losangeles.htm
[8] http://www.animalliberationfront.com/

Another communication asked: "To all of you who believe in piracy and to all that don't: Do you feel that ICE - Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is an agency under the Department of Homeland Security is responsible for defending the copyrights of major studios, like Disney?"

******** ANALYSIS ******  T/I/W Rating: LOW**

The anti-authoritarian focus on ICE over its anti-piracy initiative is coming at a time when similar activist anger has focused on ICE due to Arizona's SB 1070 immigration legislation.[9]

The adoption of ALF-style tactics effectively means illegal acts including arson, vandalism, theft and assault. These sort of actions targeting the movie industry and ICE may stem from anti-authoritarians and anarchists, as well as White Supremacists, militia members and Internet hackers. *Operation In Our Sites* is perceived by these groups as an intrusive act of aggression (and a waste of taxpayer money) by an increasingly oppressive federal government.

There is an increased potential for street activism, including anarchist-style direct action targeting movie industry or ICE facilities. Due to the nature of the targets of the above ICE operation, the potential for retaliatory cyber-attacks targeting computer systems, websites and databases belonging to ICE or movie industry corporations is also a growing concern.

One potential target of opportunity in Pennsylvania that has been in the media recently is the new film studio Sun Center Studios that broke ground in Delaware County. The state-of-the-art film and television production studios are being constructed at the former site of the Tri-State Sports Complex in Chester Township.

## *COMMERCIAL FACILITIES*
## *GOVERNMENT FACILITIES*

### 3. ***Call for Solidarity with Jailed Anarchists***

Four environmental activists who are charged with organizing violent protests and vandalism at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in 2009 (COP15) are set to face criminal proceedings in August, September and October 2010. Their supporters are calling for protests at the courthouse venue in Denmark, as well as for solidarity protests at Danish embassies around the world.

The next upcoming event is scheduled for 18 August 2010, when there will be a solidarity demonstration in Copenhagen to mark the first of the COP15 riot trials. Other court dates cited by supporters of the accused include: 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31 August 2010, 1 September 2010, and 6, 27 and 28 October 2010.

[9] http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/49leg/2r/bills/sb1070s.pdf

Supporters of the jailed activists issued a call for action saying, "We urge everyone to spend the day or the following days on demonstrations and statements of support and solidarity – demonstration and manifestations outside Danish embassies, press work and articles - all are welcome and appreciated."

******** ANALYSIS ******  T/I/W Rating: LOW**

As noted in PAIB No. 21, the environmental extremists were surprised by the vigorous response by Danish police to COP15-related violence and adversarial planning. The post-event protests over the above trials are apparently an additional expression of this frustration, which may encourage sympathetic protests by affinity groups outside Denmark.

Although Denmark does not have an embassy in Pennsylvania, it has consular representatives in both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The western half of the state has an extremely aggressive and cohesive group of climate change activists.

- The Pittsburgh Consulate, headed by Consul Eva M. Robinson, is located at 104 Shanor Heights in Butler

- The Philadelphia Consulate, headed by Consul Alfred John Kuffler, is represented by McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP at 123 S. Broad Street.

Students and faculty participating in Danish educational facilities through exchange programs such as those sponsored by Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, East Stroudsburg, Mansfield University and Westminster College should be made aware of the protest dates for moderate situational awareness.

## *BANKING AND FINANCE*

### 4. *New RAN Call for Targeting Banks*

The **RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK** (**RAN**) is promoting a new campaign to target the Swiss banking corporation UBS for what RAN claims is its part in financing mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR).

In a fresh communication, the RAN notes that "Citi, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Credit Suisse, Morgan Stanley and now Wells Fargo, have all publicly confirmed that they are moving away from bankrolling the destruction of America's mountains." The radical environmentalist group takes credit for the alleged change in the policies of these banks: "We've shifted an entire powerful industry together."

According to the RAN's communication to its supporters, "All of your emails, demonstrations, direct actions, performances, calls and letters have moved mountains in the banking industry."

The RAN warns that "the fight for America's mountains isn't over. Coal companies, like the notorious Massey Energy, are finding new banks to fund their destructive practices. It's time to finish what we started. Unlike most of its American counterparts, Swiss banking giant UBS is still in the MTR business."

******** ANALYSIS ****** T/I/W Rating: LOW-to-MODERATE**

Anti-coal mining activists and related organizations have recently been increasing training and actions targeting the coal industry and related facilities. Training sessions have focused on "skills and knowledge" regarding tactics for direct action, as well as other tactics.

Facilities targeted by the RAN in previous campaigns have been the scene of illegal actions including trespassing, lock-downs and vandalism. In light of the recent anti-MTR communications, and the alleged success of the RAN tactics, analysts believe that protests or other actions may target UBS offices in:

- Philadelphia
- Pittsburgh (Allegheny County)
- Bethel Park (Allegheny County)
- Conshohocken (Montgomery County)
- Erie (Erie County)
- Newtown (Bucks County)
- Plains (Luzerne County)

Other companies previously identified as targets of ecological activists were the coal companies directly involved in MTR coal operations, power companies that burn this coal and the offices of Duke Energy (Philadelphia & Robesonia). In addition, precautions are called for at businesses in proximity to the above-named institutions.

## *Commercial Facilities*
## *Government Facilities*
## *Public Health and Healthcare*
## *National Monuments and Icons*

### 5. *'Votes Have Consequences Express' Coming to Pennsylvania*

An anti-abortion organization, the Susan B. Anthony List, has launched a bus tour (the "Votes Have Consequences Express") through 23 cities with the purpose of "exposing" Democratic politicians who backed recent national health care reform legislation. According to the Susan B. Anthony List, the health care legislation will funnel tax revenues into coverage for abortions.[10]

Pennsylvania stops on the "Votes Have Consequences Express," all taking place on 16 August 2010, include:

[10] http://www.sba-list.org/site/c.ddJBKJNsFqG/b.4009925/k.BE63/Home.htm

- 8:45, in Erie (Erie County) at the Erie Intermodal Transportation Center
- 10:30 at the Bicentennial Park in Meadville (Crawford County)
- 12:15 at the Grove City Memorial Park (Mercer County)
- 13:45 at Diamond Square Park in Butler (Butler County)

Thus far, the bus tour has met opposition from another pro-life group, Catholics United. On 10 August 2010 Catholics United staged a counter-protest in Cincinnati, Ohio, to express their position that the new health care laws will not fund abortions.[11]

******** ANALYSIS ******  T/I/W Rating: LOW**

Due to the nature of the message and the sponsoring groups behind the "Votes Have Consequences Express," there has been no indication of expected unruly or illegal behavior. Law enforcement responsibilities at the events will likely be limited to crowd & traffic control. However, considering the passionate nature of the debate over abortion and the national health care package, there is a small risk of militant pro-choice activists crossing the line with vigorous counter-protest actions. Some heated verbal confrontations between the opposing sides may ensue, should the event garner more media attention than it has thus far.

Researchers are continuing monitoring for any pro-choice and pro-life militant communications regarding the Susan B. Anthony List bus tour. It is unknown whether these groups have coordinated for and received the necessary police permits.

Noted in PIB No. 117, researchers have not identified any other unusual anti-abortion events in Pennsylvania in the near term. However, there is ongoing agitation in pro-life communications, indicating that high-profile pro-life actions in one region can provide activist inspiration elsewhere.

[11] http://www.catholics-united.org/

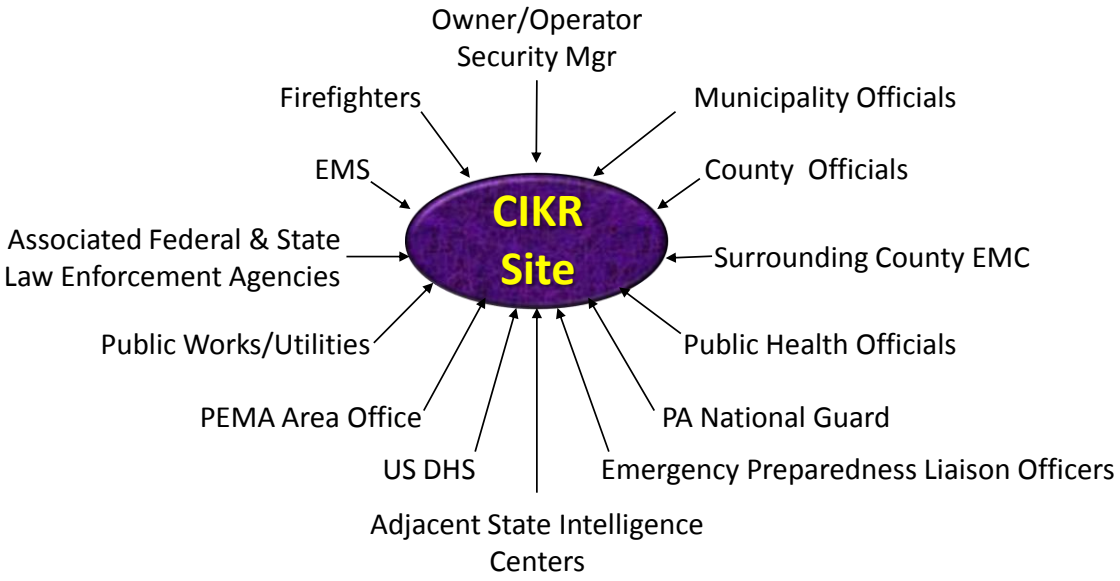
**No emerging Indicators, Threats and/or Warnings at this time for the following sectors**:

- AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
- CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
- COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS & WASTE
- CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
- DAMS
- DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE
- EMERGENCY SERVICES
- GOVERNMENT FACILITIES[12]
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- POSTAL AND SHIPPING
- TELECOMMUNICATIONS
- TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
- WATER

[12] Educational Facilities Sub-Sector: Security directors, students and faculty of all Pennsylvania-based colleges and universities participating in educational exchange programs abroad need to remain cognizant of emerging, country-specific threats, indicators and warnings.

# Goal: Situational Awareness Among All Stakeholders

*- The Information-Sharing Community -*



| THREAT / INDICATOR / WARNING RATING | *DESCRIPTION* |
|---|---|
| **LOW (Level 4)** | Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have little intent or capability to take action against the target. Although it cannot be ruled out, an attack is unlikely based on currently available intelligence. |
| **MODERATE (Level 3)** | Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have the intent and capability to take action against the target. An attack is likely to be a priority and might well be executed. |
| **SEVERE (Level 2)** | Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have the intent and capability to take action against the target. Additional information is also available on the nature of the threat. An attack on the target is a priority and is likely. |
| **CRITICAL (Level 1)** | Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements not only have the intent and capability, but also are actively planning to take action against the target within a matter of days (up to two weeks). An attack or action is imminent. |

## Source Summary Statement

*The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR) produces this document specifically for the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security in support of National Priority #3: Implement the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and all public and private sector, critical infrastructure protection-related initiatives and strategies.*

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