

Risk Management in the Energy Sector: Evolving Cybersecurity Risks & Strategies

The University of Oklahoma
COLLEGE OF LAW



Joseph R. Dancy

Director, The University of Oklahoma College of Law
Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Center (ONE C)

OKC SPEE – September 28, 2017

National Association of Corporate Directors

2014 NACD Cyber-Risk Oversight Study:

1. Increasing number of cyberattacks
2. Cyberattack complexity has grown dramatically
3. Cost to address cyber issues escalating quickly
4. Sophisticated attacks will almost always breach the target



Source: National Association of Corporate Directors, Houston Chronicle

Major Risks to Capital and the Energy Venture

Established Risks:

- Pricing Risk
- Technology Risk
- Regulatory Risk

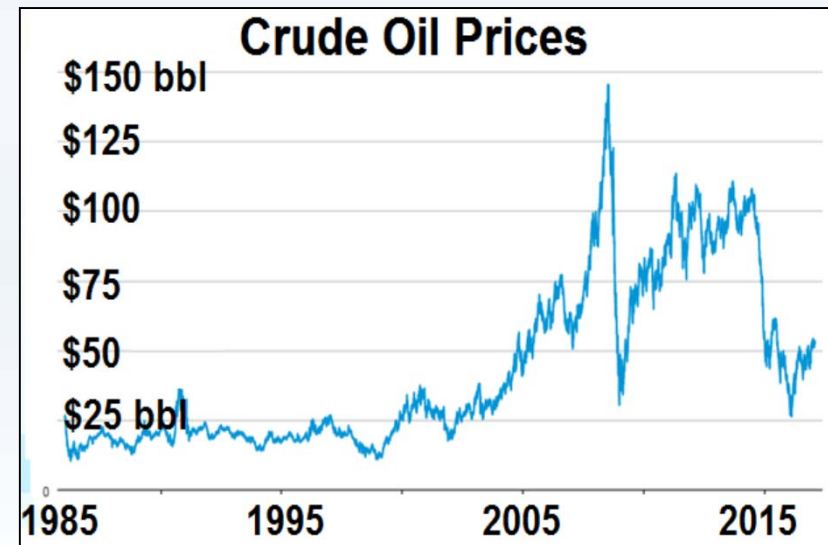
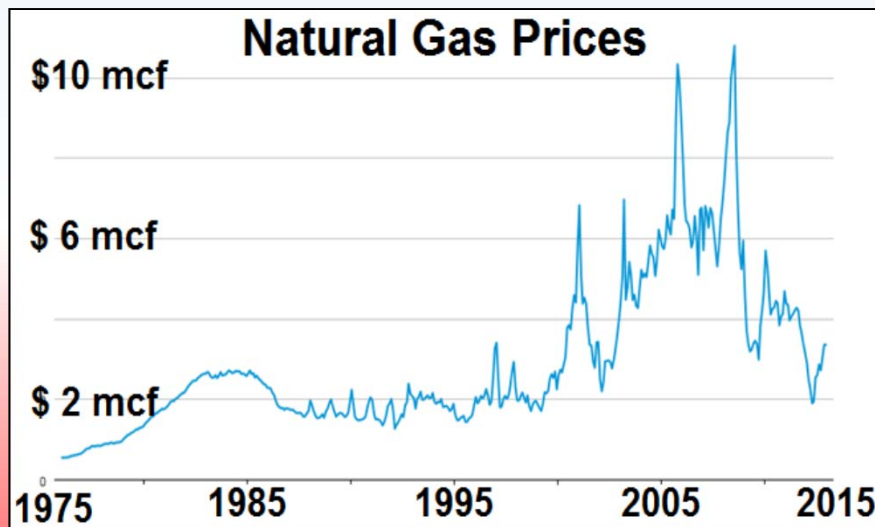
Developing Risks:

- Cybersecurity
- Data Breach
- Ransomware

The Attorney, Energy Executive or Investor must manage – or at least be able to evaluate – the major sector risks

Prices are Cyclical and Volatile

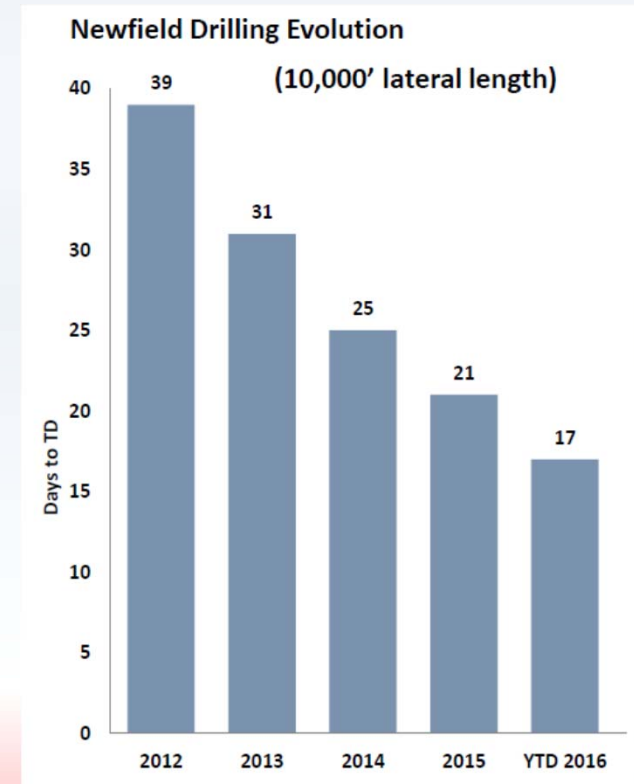
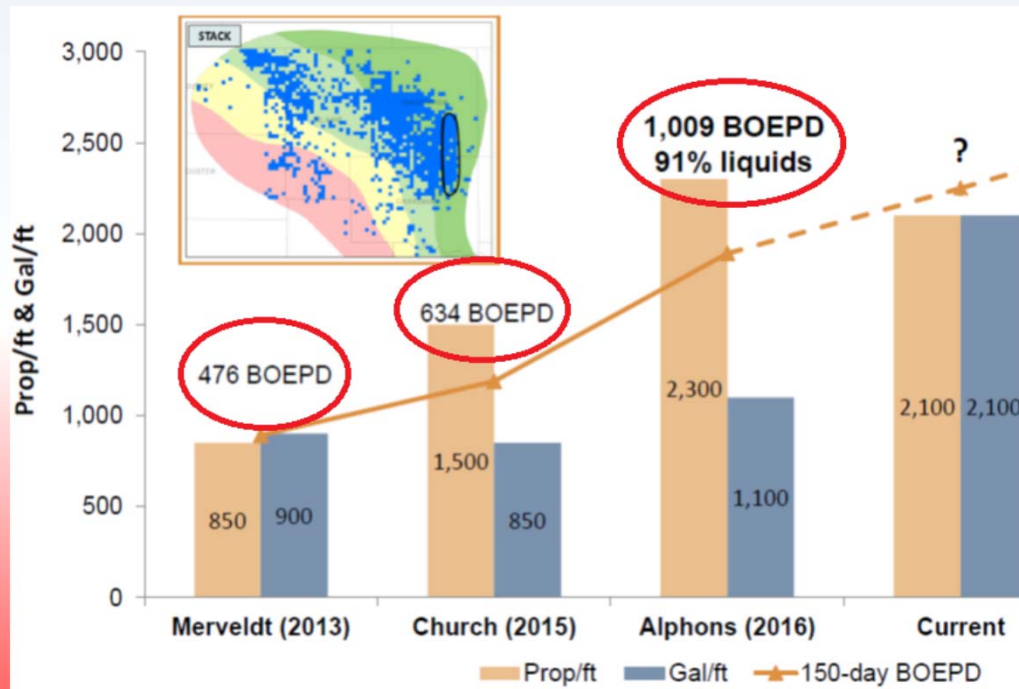
- Global Oil Demand Growth is Relentless
- Demand is Inelastic Short Term
- Geopolitical Issues Abound
- But Firms can Hedge to Reduce Risks



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Technology Risks

Well costs are decreasing while technology relentlessly evolves - increasing efficiencies and economic returns

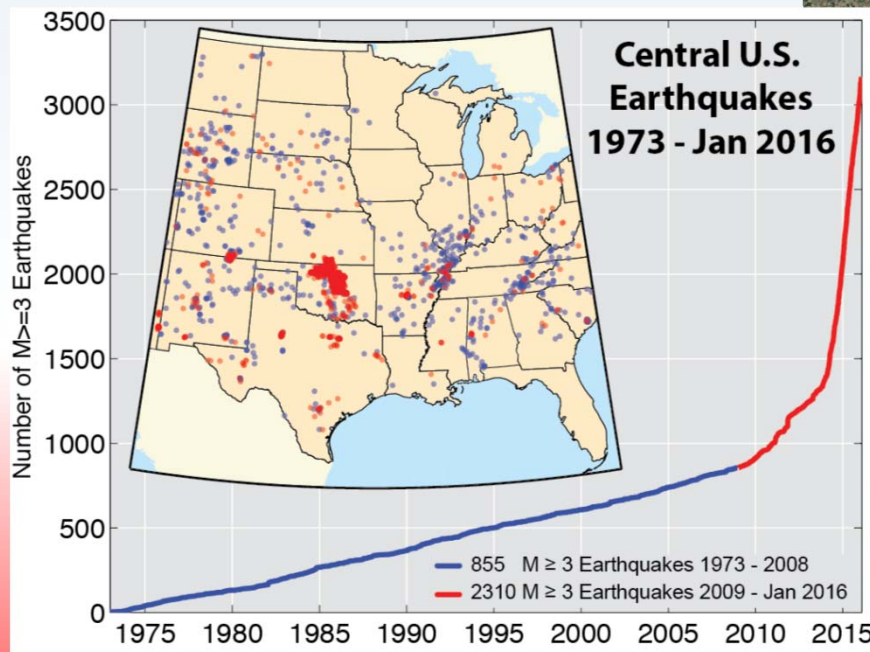
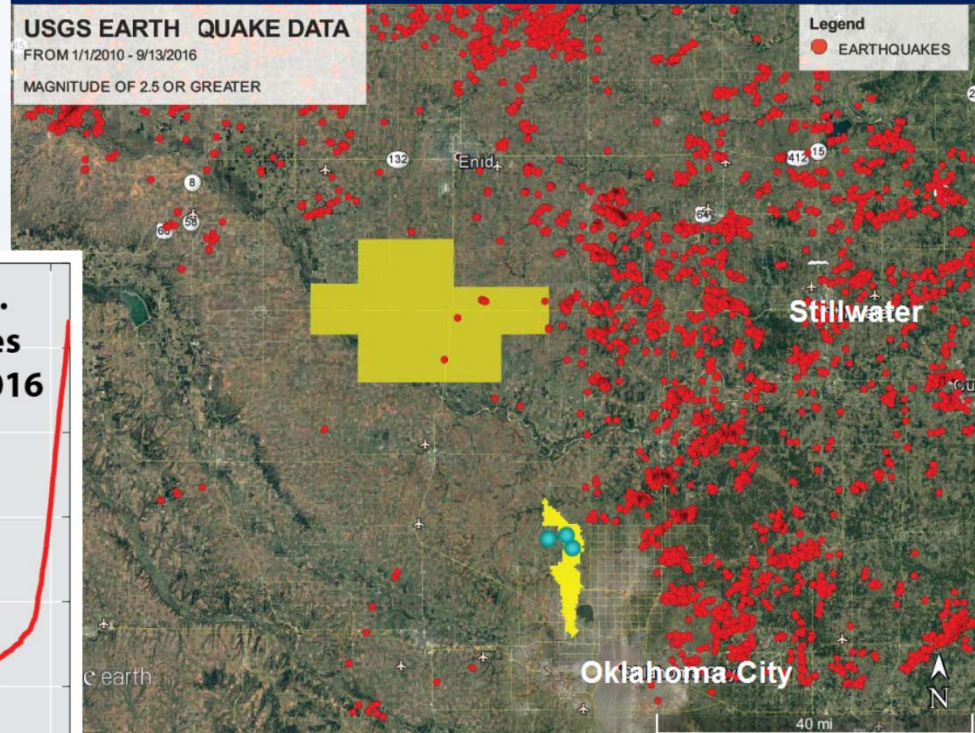


Source: Newfield Exploration Corporate Presentation

Regulatory Risks

- Induced Seismic Events
- Spacing/Pooling Issues
- Water Use & Quality

Earthquake Seismicity Map



Sources: University of California Berkeley; Gstar Exploration Inc. Corporate Presentation

Evolving Risks: Cybersecurity & Data Breach

NOV 9, 2012 @ 10:35 AM 

The Day A Computer Virus Came Close To Plugging Gulf Oil

 **Parmy Olson**, FORBES STAFF

It was a Sunday afternoon in August 2012 and Gert-Jan Schenk, the European head of cyber security giant McAfee, had just arrived home from summer vacation.

As he busied himself with unpacking luggage, Schenk's mobile phone rang, displaying an unfamiliar number. The father of two had his hands full with bags and kids, so he let it go to voicemail. Then the number rang again, and then a third time, before Schenk finally put his things down and answered the phone.



From computer keyboard to oil installation – almost. A flame from a Saudi Aramco refinery in the Saudi Arabian desert. (Image credit: AFP via @daylife)

Virus shut down office system:
35,000 computers infected
1,000 servers infected
50,000 hard drives replaced
Impact lasted for months

Saudi Arabia produces 9.5 million barrels of oil per day – 10% of global supply!

The New York Times

MIDDLE EAST

Saudi Arabia Warns Destructive Computer Virus Has Returned

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS JAN. 24, 2017, 7:15 A.M. E.S.T.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia is warning that a computer virus that destroyed systems of its state-run [oil](#) company in 2012 has returned to the kingdom, with at least one major petrochemical company apparently affected by its spread.

Suspicion for the initial dispersal of the Shamoon virus in 2012 fell on Iran as it came after the Stuxnet cyberattack targeting Tehran's contested nuclear enrichment program.

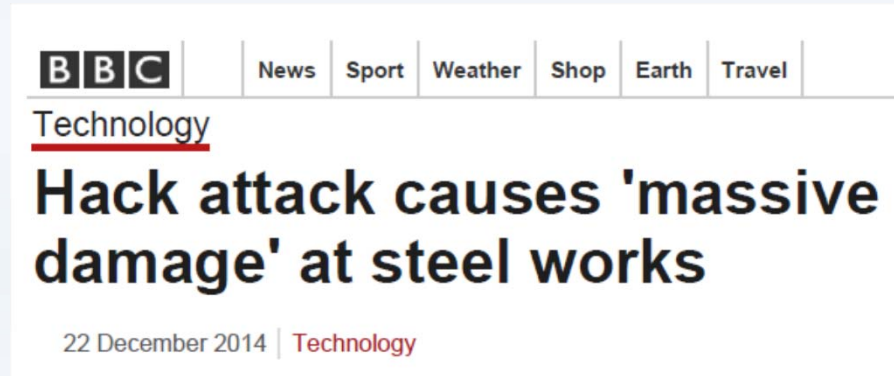
Sources: Forbes, New York Times

Operating System Breach

An attack on an operating system can have catastrophic consequences

Difficult to quantify cyber risk:

- Corporate victims generally do not disclose
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security generally does not disclose
- Other state and federal agencies generally don't disclose



The screenshot shows the BBC News website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for News, Sport, Weather, Shop, Earth, and Travel. Below these, the word 'Technology' is underlined. The main headline reads 'Hack attack causes 'massive damage' at steel works'. Below the headline, the date '22 December 2014' and the category 'Technology' are displayed.

Cyberattack on German steel mill inflicts serious damage

Published time: 21 Dec, 2014 02:17
Edited time: 21 Dec, 2014 09:20

[Get short URL](#)



GERMANY ADMITS CYBER ATTACK CAUSED PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO AN IRON PLANT

Sources: BBC, RT, K&L Gates

Pipeline System Cyber Breach

Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan (BTC)
1,100 mile pipeline:

- Security cameras disabled
- Data monitoring and control system disabled
- 30,000 barrels of oil spilled
- \$1 billion in lost revenue
- 2008 blast - first reported as cyber breach in 2014 by Bloomberg News

5/25/2016 Mysterious '08 Turkey Pipeline Blast Opened New Cyberwar - Bloomberg

Mysterious '08 Turkey Pipeline Blast Opened New Cyberwar

Jordan Robertson and Michael Riley
December 10, 2014 — 4:00 AM CST

The pipeline was outfitted with sensors and cameras to monitor every step of its 1,099 miles from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean. The blast that blew it out of commission didn't trigger a single distress signal.

That was bewildering, as was the cameras' failure to capture the combustion in eastern Turkey. But investigators shared their findings within a tight circle. The Turkish government publicly blamed a malfunction, Kurdish separatists claimed credit and BP Plc had the line running again in three weeks. The



Source: Bloomberg

General Cyber Regulatory Environment

Difficult subject matter for regulators:

- Rapidly evolving nature of cyber threats
- Industry specific threats, general rules can be too broad
- Time needed to propose rules / take comments
- Lack of ability to quickly revise obsolete rules
- Difficulty sculpting rules that are effective rule yet flexible enough to apply in different operating environments

Some of the regulators have adopted industry specific rules and regulations, but many require “reasonable procedures” versus specific standards

Energy Sector Cyber Environment

Regulatory Structure is of Recent Origin and Evolving Due to the Recent Nature of the Threat

- Most regulators require “reasonable” plans to prevent Cyber issues
- The appropriate “standard of care” is evolving as are “best practices”
- TSA suggests “best practices” that can be adopted by pipelines
- NIST “Cybersecurity Framework” identifies best practices by industry that can be adopted and utilized
- Non-specific guidelines provide for more flexibility in meeting cybersecurity goals

What are “reasonable procedures” to address the cyber threat?

Cybersecurity Risk Assessment

$$\text{Risk} = \text{Threat} \times \text{Consequences} \times \text{Vulnerability}$$

Dr. Frederick Chang, Director
Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security
Southern Methodist University

Degree of “Threat” difficult to quantify but:

- 82% of energy firms reported increased attacks in last year
- 53% of energy firms claimed increase in attacks was substantial
- The threat is dynamic in nature

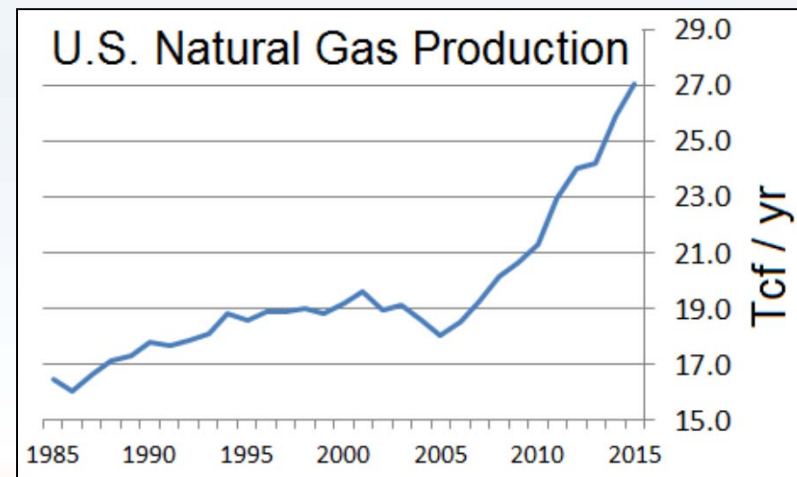
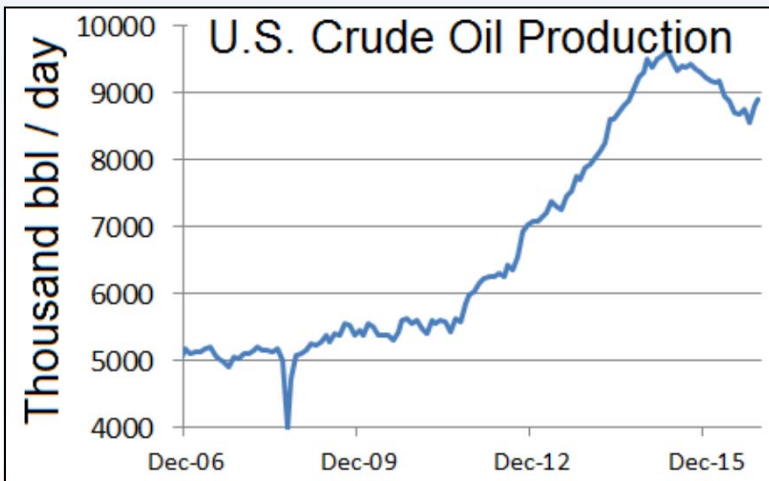
“Consequences” of breach will vary with facilities but:

- Energy sector generally has higher consequence events
- Widespread and concentrated harm across economic sectors
- Asymmetrical harm possible

Risk = Threat x Consequences x Vulnerability

Dr. Frederick Chang, Director
Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security
Southern Methodist University

“Vulnerability” component:



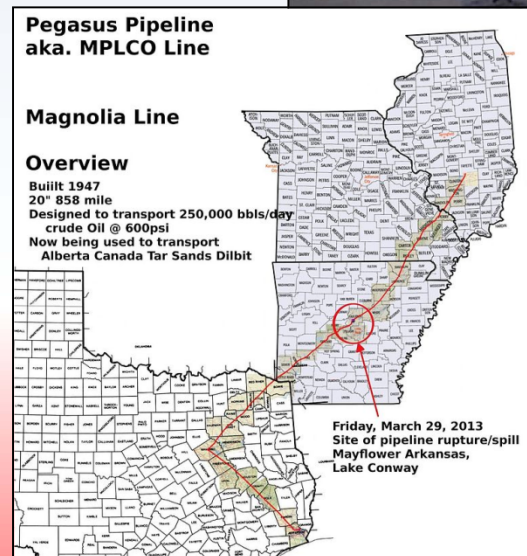
More Crude Oil and Natural Gas Being Transported Domestically

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Our Liquids Pipeline System is Dated

Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) studies:

- Corrosion, low frequency weld issues
- Roughly one-quarter of hazardous liquids pipeline pre-1970 era
- Cost \$50 billion to replace
- Preventative testing not very effective
- Leak detection systems problematic

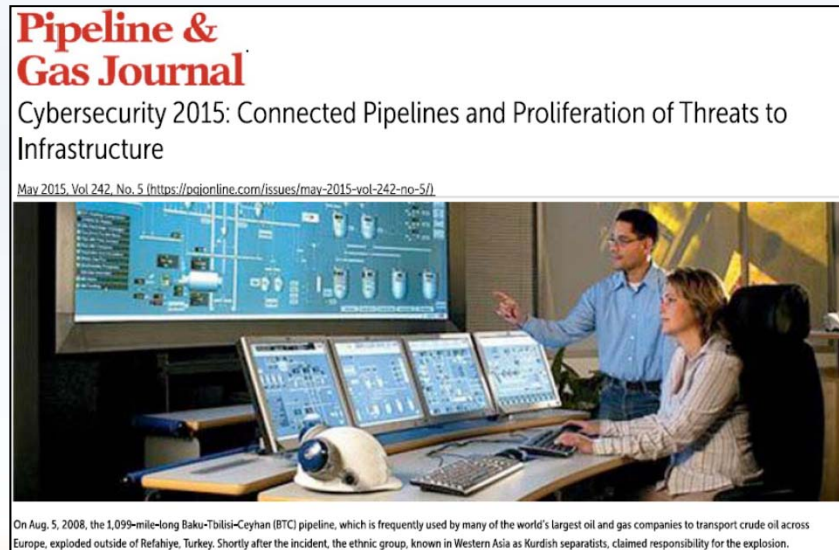


Source: PHMSA, U.S. Department of Transportation

SCADA or ICS Data & Control Systems

*“Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition” (SCADA) /
“Industrial Control Systems” (ICS)*

- Collects operational data real time
- Controls system, pressure, valves, etc.
- Recent studies:
 - SCADA systems “extremely vulnerable”
 - “Alarming level” of SCADA cybersecurity threats
 - Systems can be out of date



Source: Pipeline & Gas Journal

Third Party Contractor Risks

Risk of data leak / deal disclosure due to cyber breach

- M & A activity increasing
- Property sales and transactions increasing
- Requires:
 - Title opinions
 - Title curative
 - Due diligence
 - Financing
 - Partner agreements
 - Regulatory approval

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

As prices rise and confidence builds, oil and gas deals likely to pick up

Acquisitions of pipelines as well as exploration companies are forecast

By David Hunn | February 10, 2017

Higher oil and gas prices should spur bigger mergers and acquisitions across the energy sector in 2017, including consolidations among pipeline companies and land deals among exploration and production companies, according to an analysis by the bond credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service.

5 Key Ways Law Firms Can Reduce the Risk of Cyber Attacks

January 3, 2017 by LawFuel Editors — Leave a Comment

News that Chinese hackers had [breached law firm security](#) to secure highly sensitive data shows that law firms remain highly exposed to such attacks.

Many major UK and US law firms have increased their cyber security vigilance, but many also remain highly vulnerable as [recent reports on cyber security](#) have shown.

ABA begins offering cyber liability insurance to lawyers, law firms of all sizes

CHICAGO, Feb. 28, 2017 — The American Bar Association has expanded its [insurance offerings](#) to include cyber insurance, adding a well-timed line of insurance to its coverage that already includes life, disability, dental, vision and travel insurance for law firms.

Source: Houston Chronicle, ABA, LawFuel

Scorecard: Energy Sector Risk Assessment

Cyber Risk = Threat x Consequences x Vulnerability

Substantial
and
increasing

Substantial

Substantial

≡ Forbes

NOV 4, 2015 @ 12:05 PM

The Biggest
Cybersecurity Threat:
The Energy Sector



Michael Krancer, CONTRIBUTOR

I cover the world of energy and policy.

It's cyber attacks on the energy space, not the consumer credit space, that could cripple the United States — or any country — as well as bring about a collapse of order and society that most of us associate with apocalyptic scenarios.

Michael Krancer, Forbes

Source: Forbes

Common Law Liability for Cyber Breach

Evolving issues:

- Foreseeability
- Negligence
- Negligence per se
- Duty of reasonable care



SECURITYWEEK
INTERNET AND ENTERPRISE SECURITY NEWS, INSIGHTS & ANALYSIS

Subscribe (Free) | CISO Forum

Malware & Threats Cybercrime Mobile & Wireless Risk & Compliance Security Architecture Security

Home > SCADA / ICS

Oil and Gas Industry Increasingly Hit by Cyber-Attacks: Report

By SecurityWeek News on January 14, 2016

in Share 297 G+1 3 Tweet Recommend 26 RSS

Most of oil and gas industry organizations have seen an increase in successful cyber-attacks over the past 12 months, a recent report from Tripwire, Inc. reveals.

According to the [study](#), which was conducted by Dimensional Research in November 2015, 82 percent of oil and gas industry respondents said their organizations registered an increase in successful cyber-attacks over the past 12 months. Moreover, 53 percent of the respondents said that the rate of cyber-attacks has increased between 50 and 100 percent over the past month.

Pipelines Safety And Security: Is It No More Than A Pipe Dream?

Methane leaks and explodes, Canadian tar sands crude sinks, and computerized control systems are being hacked. Is publicly-acceptable safety and security a realistic prospect?

By **Trudy E. Bell** (Copyright 2014 Trudy E. Bell)

WINTER 2015 THE BENT OF TAU BETA PI

Source: Security Week, The Bent of Tau Beta Pi

Addressing Cyber Risks

“Reasonable procedures” an entity could focus on:

- Possible infection pathways and firewalls
- System access policies
- Employee and contractor training
- Subdivide networks to limit damage
- Identify chokepoints to cut off infection
- Periodically assess security
- Data encryption and retention policies
- Software patches & antivirus software
- Disaster / recovery protocols

Rely on experts to advise on a prudent course of action

Cybersecurity Strategy Suggestions

1. Designate IT expert responsible and provide resources
2. IT expert provides training to employees and contractors
3. IT expert restricts access / adopts company wide rules
4. CEO reports to board quarterly on cyber issues
5. Separate office / operational / web servers
6. If serious breach occurs, board of directors informed

Concluding Thoughts

- Cyber threats are a growing issue
- Threats quickly evolve and morph
- The issue is global in nature
- Difficult to regulate
- Damage can be asymmetrical
- Prudent entities will address the threat

Contact Information

Joseph R. Dancy

Executive Director, The University of Oklahoma College of Law
Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Center (ONE C)

(405) 325-4699

The University of Oklahoma
COLLEGE OF LAW