

# THE UPDATE

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*The goal of our monthly update is to provide information on timely matters that may impact your practice and professional interests.*



## **AT LAST MEANINGFUL FINES FOR DATA BREACHES**

*Data broker Choice Point Inc agreed last week to pay a \$10 million federal fine over its security breaches that exposed more than 160,000 people to possible identity theft. As one of the nations largest sellers and buyers of personal information including Social Security numbers, birth dates and addresses, it also agreed to pay an additional \$5 million into a fund to compensate people who have suffered as a result of the breaches. Hopefully news of this fine and settlement will serve as a warning to companies to get more serious about protecting sensitive personal information.*



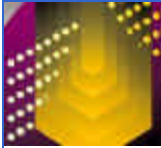
## **EFFORTS TO JUMP-START NUCLEAR POWER GROWING**

*Expect the Bush administration to announce shortly its decision to undertake a \$250 million initiative planned for the 2007 budget to test new technologies to reprocess nuclear fuel reversing a standing policy since 1970 that rejected reprocessing as too dangerous to pursue. If the new technology works it could significantly reduce the amount of spent nuclear waste to be buried at a time when energy prices remain high and growing concerns about global warming make nuclear power plants more acceptable.*



## **FEDERAL AGENCIES BACK GREEN BUILDING PRINCIPLES**

*Nineteen federal agencies agreed two weeks ago to adhere to environmentally friendly building principles developed by the White House Office of the Federal Environmental Executive that establishes common goals for high environmental performance buildings. The 19 agencies taken together represent 85 to 90 % of the more than 3.3 billion sq. ft. of floor space now leased by the federal government.*



## **NEW SENSORS TO DETECT ICY BRIDGES UNDERWAY**

***Clemson University researchers are now working on developing tiny wireless sensors called motes to alert authorities to the impending collapse of a bridge or dangerous seismic activity along a fault line that could be an indicator of an earthquake by placing them on roads and bridges to notify authorities when they begin to approach their structural breaking point. The planned network of wireless motes can relay important data back to computers for analysis in an effort to significantly improve public safety.***

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