

# 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.*



## **WETLANDS MAY RETURN TO RESCUE BIG EASY'S FUTURE**

*The natural wetlands off the state's southern coast which have for centuries protected New Orleans and adjacent coastal areas from hurricanes have been deteriorating at the average rate of 34 miles annually. Proposals to re-constitute the wetlands range from construction of large pipelines to redirect silt from the lower Mississippi River to re-channeling up to 1/3 of the rivers flow toward the Gulf of Mexico to enable the resurgence of native plants and bushes enabling new deltas to be built up at the rate of 2 to 3 miles per year rather than face continuing deterioration and reliance on higher and more costly levees.*



## **HIGH FUEL COST RE-IGNITING INTEREST IN NUCLEAR**

*Suddenly nuclear power is emerging as a candidate to replace natural gas and coal as the primary fuel amid the rising cost of the latter more traditional fuel sources. Last month the cost of natural gas rose to \$14 per million BTU's representing nearly a two-fold increase over the October 2004 cost. Nuclear plants have operated without major mishaps since the 1979 incident at Three Mile Island. However investors remain concerned that another single large incident in the U.S. or elsewhere could hamper further nuclear power industry growth.*



## **TERRORISM CONCERNS DRIVE INTEREST IN FILTRATION**

*The threat of terrorism has focused building's HVAC system vulnerabilities in a new light, raising the question of how to use filtration to halt the spread of airborne chemical, biological, and radiological attacks. There is also the possibility that some airflow will by-pass the filters since outside air can infiltrate into the building in various ways. Evaluation of the kinds of contaminants of concern and how they might enter the building will doubtless require a more comprehensive strategy for building owners, designers and*

***maintenance personnel than current construction practices.***



### ***THE EVER CHANGING SHAPE OF INFORMATION DELIVERY***

***The disconnect between the sheer volume of information available and our understanding of it has given rise to a new field of research. It is known as data exploration and draws upon information science, mathematics and software design to create order out of expansive repositories of data. Topology, the mathematical examination of shapes, offers great potential for sophisticated data exploration, as conventional graphs and charts that most professionals currently use offer only limited expressions of information represented in the second and third dimension. Yet more complex models of higher dimensions may prove imperceptible to most people, and particularly those sitting in juries.***

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### ***Meckler Forensic Group***

Address	10573 West Pico Blvd. #200 Los Angeles, CA. 90064	200 2nd Ave. South #204 St. Petersburg, FL. 33701
Phone	(310)913-3864	(800)556-1932
FAX	(800)210-6244	(800)308-5811
EMail	<a href="mailto:mmeckler@mforensicgroup.com">mmeckler@mforensicgroup.com</a>	
URL	<a href="http://www.mforensicgoup.com">http://www.mforensicgoup.com</a>	