
KU asks to expand energy efficiency programs

Kentucky Utilities has asked the state Public Service Commission for permission to expand its energy efficiency programs. If approved, the request would create three new offerings and tweak five existing ones. The utility says if the changes in the seven-year plan are approved for it and affiliated company Louisville Gas and Electric, they could save the amount of energy produced by a typical coal-fired generator over their lifetime. There's no statutory requirement for how soon the commission must address their request, said PSC spokesman Andrew Melnykovych. (The Herald-Leader, April 21, 2011)

Humana HQ gets ENERGY STAR designation

Humana Inc. has earned the ENERGY STAR certification for its headquarters building in downtown Louisville. The ENERGY STAR rating is granted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy for buildings that have superior energy performance and improve the quality of the environment, according to a news release. This designation signifies that Humana's headquarters performs in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency. (Business First, April 15, 2011)

Louisville officials pleased with emergency alert response after Rubbertown ethanol leak

A 5,000-gallon ethanol spill at a gasoline storage facility in Rubbertown on Monday put the city's emergency notification system to its first test since an explosion at a nearby plant last month exposed problems that city officials promised to fix. And officials and Rubbertown-area residents all said they were pleased with the results. "Everything worked as it should have worked," said Chris Poynter, a spokesman for Mayor Greg Fischer. He said Fischer was alerted early in the morning, along with city emergency-management officials, when the incident at the Marathon Oil facility in the 3900 block of Kramers Lane was reported. (The Courier-Journal, April 18, 2011)

Fuel prices have schools looking at cuts

As school district staff begin to examine budgets for the upcoming school year, one issue comes to the forefront: fuel prices. Rising gas prices are not just wearing out the average consumer's wallet, but wearing out the school districts' budgets as well. "Of course it has to impact us ... We are feeling it," Metcalfe County superintendent Pat Hurt said. Barren County schools are facing a potentially large deficit in their fuel budget. "We will probably exceed our budget once more because of fuel prices," Barren County superintendent Dr. Jerry Ralston said. (Glasgow Daily Times, April 17, 2011)

Kentucky Environmental Foundation hopes to spur EPA decisions

The Kentucky Environmental Foundation is hoping to encourage the Environmental Protection Agency to rule on issues related to air quality in Kentucky. The EPA has missed its deadline to approve or reject state implementation program proposals. The proposals outline how various regions in the commonwealth will reduce particulate pollution released by power plants, cars and other sources. KEF director Elizabeth Crowe says by missing deadlines, the EPA has allowed the air to remain polluted, and her organization has filed a notice of intent to sue the EPA over the issue. (WFPL News, April 18, 2011)

LG&E proposes rebates, other measures to get customers to use less power

Seeking to slow the growth in energy consumption, LG&E and Kentucky Utilities have proposed giving customers rewards for energy-efficient purchases and practices. They would include rebate checks from \$50 to \$300 for buying ENERGY STAR appliances, replacing residential heating or cooling equipment, or applying window film; and incentives of \$500 to \$1,000 for installing measures recommended by a home energy audit. (The Courier Journal, April 19, 2011)

Neighbors of Cane Run plant worry about health impact of coal ash

Mountains are leveled in Eastern Kentucky to produce coal, but one Louisville neighborhood has been watching a different kind of mountain grow — one made of waste from burning coal at a power plant. "We call it Coal Mountain," said Kathy Little, who has lived for 32 years in Claremore Acres, which is in the shadow of Louisville Gas & Electric Co.'s Cane Run power plant along the Ohio River. (The Courier-Journal, April 19, 2011)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	4/21/2011	4/15/2011	4/7/2011	4/1/2011	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.797	3.801	3.695	3.6	2.818
Ashland	2.919	3.912	3.854	3.648	2.857
Covington	3.87	3.855	3.771	3.627	2.897
Lexington	3.797	3.851	3.745	3.615	2.82
Louisville	3.784	3.759	3.604	3.637	2.851
Owensboro	3.774	3.762	3.64	3.484	2.703
Diesel (State avg.)	4.056	4.056	3.923	3.893	2.99
Ashland	4.076	4.084	3.956	3.912	3.037
Covington	4.096	4.067	3.948	3.93	3.009
Lexington	4.068	4.07	3.927	3.9	2.997
Louisville	4.066	4.063	3.905	3.881	2.98
Owensboro	4.066	4.037	3.911	3.853	2.955

Note: The record high average price for gasoline in Kentucky is \$4.089, reported on July 10, 2008.
 Source: Gasoline (unleaded regular) & Diesel: National AAA,

Wholesale Fuel Prices

Spot Prices	4/21/2011	4/14/2011	4/6/2011	3/31/2011	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	110.89	108.11	108.83	106.72	82.88
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	4.335	4.135	4.19	4.295	3.965

Source: Wall Street Journal

Futures		11-May	11-Jun	11-Jul
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	4/20/2011	108.15	111.45	111.91
	4/14/2011	108.11	108.7	109.19
	4/6/2011	108.83	109.48	110.05
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	4/20/2011	4.31	4.357	4.429
	4/14/2011	4.212	4.269	4.342
	4/6/2011	4.146	4.22	4.302
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	4/20/2011	1.435	1.472	1.472
	4/14/2011	1.427	1.432	1.437
	4/6/2011	1.4	1.394	1.396
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	4/20/2011	77.33	77.58	78.23
	4/14/2011	74.73	74.9	74.8
	4/6/2011	75.3	75.32	75.95

Source: CME Group



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