

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Residents tell EPA officials about concerns

Citing issues ranging from sewage and flooding to smoking, littering, noise nuisances and industrial emissions, residents from Boyd and Greenup counties met with environmental officials in Catlettsburg Tuesday during the first of a series of community gatherings aimed at identifying environmental issues that can be addressed and resolved through local action. "If you live in Greenup your concerns are going to be different than somebody living in Boyd County," said CARE project manager Kristy Bolen as participants gathered in small groups according to where they live. (The Independent Online, April 26, 2011)

Exxon hits back at gas price anger

In an attempt to deflect rising anger among American drivers and political leaders, Exxon Mobil said Thursday that it makes relatively little money on gasoline, even as it reported a nearly \$11 billion quarterly profit. "We understand that it's simply too irresistible for many politicians in times of high oil prices and high earnings -- they feel they have to demonize our industry," said a statement from Exxon vice president Ken Cohen. The statement argued Exxon is not to blame for the recent surge in gas prices, now above \$4 a gallon in many areas. Exxon argued that most of its profit comes from overseas operations, and that earnings in its refining business, which converts crude into gas, make up only 6% of its earnings. (CNN Money, April 28, 2011)

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 the request, said PSC spokesman Andrew Melnykovich. (The Herald-Leader, April 25, 2011)

Earthquake risk clouds Paducah's nuclear future

Retired engineer Ralph Young had hoped this would be the year that Kentucky's General Assembly would ease its restrictions on nuclear plant construction, clearing the way for a plant near his hometown of Paducah. But a bill to do just that died in committee — and that was in the days before the massive March 11 earthquake in Japan caused a tsunami that washed into a nuclear plant there, setting off serious radiation leaks that sent a trace amount of radiation around the world. Now, given that Paducah sits in an area the U.S. Geological Survey considers a high hazard should an earthquake occur on one of the faults in the New Madrid seismic zone, Young and other supporters are worried that the proposed nuclear plant may not happen. (The Courier-Journal, April 25, 2011)

KY government goes green, highlights initiatives

Gov. Steve Beshear is calling attention to a new website that highlights state government's initiatives to be more environmentally friendly. Beshear said his administration is saving money with green initiatives that can be reviewed on the website. People can access the site at <http://greeningkentucky.ky.gov> to check out initiatives within various areas of government. For example, the Finance and Administration Cabinet has a project under way to reduce energy consumption in state buildings with new energy management software and controls. (The Herald-Leader, April 25, 2011)

LG&E, KU may retire coal-fired units

Mirroring a national trend toward cleaner air, Louisville Gas and Electric Co. and Kentucky Utilities are making initial plans to retire coal-burning units at three aging power plants within five years, including the Cane Run station in western Louisville. According to long-range planning documents filed late last week with the Public Service Commission, the other two plants that could shut down coal-fired operations by 2016 are KU's Green River plant in Central City in Western Kentucky, and KU's Tyrone station in Versailles, which has already been mothballed temporarily. (The Courier Journal, April 24, 2011)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	4/29/2011	4/21/2011	4/15/2011	4/7/2011	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.885	4.108	3.801	3.695	2.832
Ashland	4.033	2.919	3.912	3.854	2.841
Covington	3.995	3.87	3.855	3.771	2.911
Lexington	3.869	3.797	3.851	3.745	2.833
Louisville	3.959	3.784	3.759	3.604	2.858
Owensboro	3.849	3.774	3.762	3.64	2.744
Diesel (State avg.)	4.051	4.056	4.056	3.923	3.006
Ashland	4.057	4.076	4.084	3.956	3.044
Covington	4.06	4.096	4.067	3.948	3.002
Lexington	4.054	4.068	4.07	3.927	3.001
Louisville	4.062	4.066	4.063	3.905	2.979
Owensboro	4.051	4.066	4.037	3.911	2.971

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	4/29/2011	4/21/2011	4/14/2011	4/6/2011	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	112.86	110.89	108.11	108.83	85.17
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	4.34	4.335	4.135	4.19	4.11

Source: Wall Street Journal

Futures		11-May	11-Jun	11-Jul
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	4/29/2011	*	112.86	113.34
	4/20/2011	108.15	111.45	111.91
	4/14/2011	108.11	108.7	109.19
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	4/29/2011	4.377	4.571	4.633
	4/20/2011	4.31	4.357	4.429
	4/14/2011	4.212	4.269	4.342
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	4/29/2011	1.448	1.585	1.586
	4/20/2011	1.435	1.472	1.472
	4/14/2011	1.427	1.432	1.437
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	4/29/2011	79.67	78.9	79.25
	4/20/2011	77.33	77.58	78.23
	4/14/2011	74.73	74.9	74.8

Source: CME Group

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