

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Credit terms could save East Kentucky Power Cooperative \$5 million each year

East Kentucky Power Cooperative will save approximately \$5 million per year after renegotiating the terms of a three-year \$450 million credit facility, according to a statement released by the company. The cooperative closed on the credit facility in 2010 to provide “the liquidity from day-to-day to make sure we have the cash in hand that East Kentucky needs,” Nick Comer, EKPC representative, said in a recent interview. “We don’t have a group of shareholders like Microsoft or Walmart or Ford Motor Co.” (The Winchester Sun, Aug. 15, 2011)

1,000 homes to get \$150 for energy-efficiency

Frankfort Plant Board’s customers may soon get some relief from costly energy rates, which are expected to increase by 50 percent statewide in the next 10 years. The plant board is one of 26 energy providers statewide – including Kentucky Utilities and LG&E, the state’s largest energy firms – taking part in the Kentucky Home Performance program. That’s a \$6.1 million initiative from the Kentucky Housing Corporation aimed to improve energy efficiency in homes. (State-Journal.com, Aug. 19, 2011)

Don’t count out nuclear just yet

The summer meeting of the American Nuclear Society could have been a wake. The exuberant “nuclear renaissance” of the past few years -- by 2009, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission had received applications for 20 new plants -- fizzled in the wake of the Fukushima nightmare. Not one, but two conference sessions were entirely devoted to the painful lessons of that catastrophe. (Fortune, Aug. 16, 2011)

Environmental groups criticize Kentucky’s regulation of coal ash

Kentucky and other states do a poor job of regulating coal ash in order to protect water supplies, two environmental groups said in a study released Wednesday. The report said Kentucky falls short on a number of fronts, such as not requiring liners under coal-ash ponds, groundwater monitoring or emergency plans covering failures of dams at ash-storage facilities. (The Herald-Leader, Aug. 18, 2011)

GE Lighting to expand manufacturing of energy-efficient lighting products in Lexington

Governor Steve Beshear today announced GE Lighting will invest approximately \$10 million at its Lexington Lamp Plant to produce a new line of energy-efficient lighting products. The expansion, which is in response to customer demand for energy-efficient lighting, will initially create 38 new jobs in the Commonwealth. (The Lane Report, Aug. 17, 2011)

TVA board implements vision

The Tennessee Valley Authority board of directors on Thursday began putting into action the Integrated Resource Plan that will meet the region’s electricity needs today and into the future. The actions embrace TVA’s vision for cleaner, reliable and competitively priced power. (TVA Press Release, Aug. 18, 2011)

With post-its and checklists, schools cut their energy bills

Simple yellow Post-it notes with the message “When not in use, turn off the juice,” pointedly left on classroom computers, printers and air-conditioners, have helped the Mount Sinai School District on Long Island save \$350,000 annually on utility bills. Energy consumption in New York City’s 1,245 school buildings is down roughly 11 percent since 2008, as motion detectors have been installed on classroom lights and unused refrigerators and freezers have been unplugged for the summer. (The New York Times, Aug. 14, 2011)

Thirty-one coal counties to receive more than \$600,000 in refunds

Governor Steve Beshear Monday announced that fiscal courts in 31 counties will receive refunds totaling \$612,450 from mining permit and acreage fees. “Every effort is being made by my administration to help the mining industry extract coal in a manner that is safe, efficient and protective of our environment,” Beshear said. (The Lane Report, Aug. 2, 2011)

University of Kentucky gets \$14.5 million federal grant

The University of Kentucky snagged a \$14.5 million federal grant Monday to develop technology that can capture most of the carbon dioxide emitted from coal-fired power plants without increasing the cost of electricity by more than a third. The U.S. Department of Energy awarded the four-year grant to the University of Kentucky Research Foundation. (The Herald-Leader, Aug. 16, 2011)

Washing away the gray

Cane Run Road residents living across the street from Louisville Gas & Electric’s coal ash landfill received only a brief reprieve from the sludge processing plant that malfunctioned twice last month, sending clouds of coal ash into their neighborhood... While the residents’ frustration continues to mount — and the Metro Air Pollution Control District (APCD) continues to monitor the situation with the limited tools at their disposal — LG&E is attempting to allay their fear and anger with a seemingly altruistic deed: a free power-wash of their homes to scrub away filth quite possibly caused by the plant. (LEO Weekly, Aug. 17, 2011)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	8/19/2011	8/12/2011	8/5/2011	7/28/2011	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.502	3.505	3.65	3.689	2.645
Ashland	3.514	3.425	3.667	3.714	2.663
Covington	3.567	3.561	3.699	3.773	2.77
Lexington	3.499	3.469	3.64	3.679	2.638
Louisville	3.458	3.475	3.633	3.745	2.636
Owensboro	3.474	3.451	3.597	3.608	2.584
Diesel (State avg.)	3.829	3.847	3.894	3.899	2.929
Ashland	3.841	3.877	3.902	3.907	2.932
Covington	3.777	3.782	3.798	3.805	2.928
Lexington	3.807	3.819	3.865	3.872	2.919
Louisville	3.791	3.807	3.832	3.839	2.937
Owensboro	3.82	3.848	3.938	3.929	2.887

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	8/19/2011	8/11/2011	8/4/2011	7/27/2011	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	82.38	85.72	86.63	97.4	74.43
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3.98	4.08	4.151	4.445	4.265

Source: The Wall Street Journal

Futures		11-Sep	11-Oct	11-Nov
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	8/19/2011	82.38	97.84	98.33
	8/11/2011	85.72	86.04	86.43
	8/4/2011	86.63	87.04	87.49
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	8/19/2011	3.892	4.333	4.446
	8/11/2011	4.108	4.127	4.279
	8/4/2011	3.941	3.955	4.09
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	8/19/2011	1.525	1.56	1.567
	8/11/2011	1.526	1.533	1.539
	8/4/2011	1.522	1.529	1.537
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	8/19/2011	75.83	77.48	77.48
	8/11/2011	76.05	76.2	76.2
	8/4/2011	74.67	74.53	74.53

Source: CME Group



The Department for Energy Development and Independence does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or disability and provides, on request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. To request materials in an alternative format, call the Department for Energy Development and Independence at (800) 282-0868. Persons with hearing and speech impairments can contact the agency by using the Kentucky Relay Service, a toll-free telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD). For voice to TDD, call (800) 648-6057. For TDD to voice, call (800) 648-6056.

