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***PSC sets public meetings in KU and LG&E environmental compliance cases***

The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold public meetings next month in Henderson, Louisville, Lexington and Corbin to receive public comments on environmental compliance plans and associated environmental surcharge requests submitted by Kentucky Utilities Co. (KU) and Louisville Gas & Electric Co. (LG&E). The public comment meetings will be preceded by an information session during which PSC staff will explain the environmental compliance review process and the legal basis for the surcharge, which applies only to electric rates. The presentation will include an overview of the KU and LG&E applications. (WYMP News, Aug. 26, 2011)

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***Marcellus shale estimates slashed by 80 percent***

Maybe natural gas isn't as bountiful as some like to think. The United States Geological Survey this week issued a report stating that the Marcellus Shale formation contains 84 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered, but technically recoverable natural gas and 3.4 billion barrels of technically recoverable natural gas liquids. That's well up from the 2 trillion cubic feet estimate issued by the USGS in 2002 for the geological formation that straddles Pennsylvania and New York. The increase is due to advances in hydraulic fracturing. However, it is far lower than the estimate of 410 trillion cubic feet that the Energy Information Administration has been recently using. (GreenTechAudio, Aug. 25, 2011)

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***Five Anderson County School buildings earn EPA's ENERGY STAR certification for superior energy efficiency***

Five Anderson County School Buildings have earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Energy Star certification, which signifies that the building performs in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency and meets strict energy efficiency performance levels set by the EPA. "A big push nationally is to get public buildings rated as Energy Star Buildings. To get this rating, you have to have an energy efficiency rating of at least 75. In a district the size of ours, it would be expected to have one or two buildings with this rating," said Energy Manager Gary Stinnett. "I am happy to report that five of our buildings meet the Energy Star criteria. (Anderson County Schools, Aug. 30, 2011)

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***One man in hospital after coal mining accident***

A coal mining accident in Harlan County has one man in the hospital. It happened yesterday at Stillhouse Mining in Lynch. Jimmy Saylor was working on a belt within the mine. He turned off the belt before climbing on it. "While he was there working on the belt, the sampler comes on and makes a swipe at the belt and of course hits him. So when it strikes him, then he falls," said Tracy Stumbo, Accident Investigation Division Chief Investigator. Saylor is in stable condition at Holston Valley Hospital with several injuries. Electrical inspectors are on site now checking into the mechanics of the equipment. Officials are trying to determine whether the accident was a mechanical error. The mine was closed yesterday, but it is back open today. (WYMP News, Aug. 30, 2011)

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***Davis Energy, LLC receives award for mine reclamation from Department for Natural Resources***

Carl E. Campbell, commissioner of the Department for Natural Resources, presented a 2011 Commissioners Award of Excellence in Reclamation to Davis Energy, LLC for outstanding reclamation work on its surface facility (permit no. 858-0221) located in Johnson County near the community of Davisville. In presenting the award to Dave Wright, Daryl Davis and Clyde Burchette, Commissioner Campbell expressed his appreciation for the company's outstanding reclamation work. The reclamation work performed by Davis Energy, LLC has been exemplary in several ways. Rich topsoil is not always abundant and care must be taken to preserve all topsoil during mining efforts. All topsoil was carefully removed, stored and seeded to prevent loss, Campbell added. This site shows that with diligent work, organization and commitment, resources can be recovered and the land reclaimed for future generations to enjoy. (WYMP News, Aug. 30, 2011)

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***HBEER reaches milestone on first prototype***

The University of Kentucky College of Design and its partners recently set the first prototype for the Houseboat to Energy Efficient Residences (HBEER) project. The prototype consisted of two modules that were hoisted into place with a crane. The future residence found a new home on the corner of Rankin and Ridgewood in Monticello, Ky. As part of UK College of Design's challenge to its faculty and students to work on real world problems to help develop potential solutions, the college's HBEER project is helping to design and build energy efficient, low-income residences. (University of Kentucky News, Sept. 1, 2011)

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***Producing hydrogen in 'backyard' could be possible***

Scientists say producing hydrogen in the backyard could be possible in future by "tweaking" an inexpensive semiconductor material, which could be available in commercial store, for generating hydrogen from water by using sunlight. "When the catalyst is properly manufactured, one could buy it in a commercial store for making hydrogen in his backyard," Professor Madhu Menon of the University of Kentucky told IBTimes. "The research should attract the interest of other scientists across a variety of disciplines. Photocatalysis is currently one of the hottest topics in science. We expect the present work to have a wide appeal in the community spanning chemistry, physics and engineering," Menon added. (International Business Times, Sept. 1, 2011)

**Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)**

Product	9/2/2011	8/26/2011	8/19/2011	8/12/2011	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.628	3.561	3.502	3.505	2.608
Ashland	3.68	3.687	3.514	3.425	2.611
Covington	3.682	3.609	3.567	3.561	2.651
Lexington	3.64	3.607	3.499	3.469	2.616
Louisville	3.64	3.512	3.458	3.475	2.656
Owensboro	3.571	3.514	3.474	3.451	2.511
Diesel (State avg.)	3.855	3.818	3.829	3.847	2.903
Ashland	3.896	3.816	3.841	3.877	2.938
Covington	3.773	3.778	3.777	3.782	2.92
Lexington	3.84	3.791	3.807	3.819	2.909
Louisville	3.812	3.779	3.791	3.807	2.907
Owensboro	3.85	3.836	3.82	3.848	2.865

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	9/2/2011	8/26/2011	8/19/2011	8/11/2011	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	88.93	85.3	82.38	85.72	75.02
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	4.175	3.993	3.98	4.08	3.81

Source: The Wall Street Journal

Futures		11-Oct	11-Nov	11-Dec
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	9/2/2011	88.93	89.24	89.62
	8/26/2011	84.12	87.04	87.49
	8/19/2011	82.38	97.84	98.33
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	9/2/2011	4.05	4.166	4.381
	8/26/2011	3.931	3.955	4.09
	8/19/2011	3.892	4.333	4.446
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	9/2/2011	1.583	1.589	1.595
	8/26/2011	1.528	1.529	1.537
	8/19/2011	1.525	1.56	1.567
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	9/2/2011	76.53	76.78	77.03
	8/26/2011	75.47	74.53	74.53
	8/19/2011	75.83	77.48	77.48

Source: CME Group



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