

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Arch Coal lays off nearly 600 Kentucky miners

Exacerbating eastern Kentucky's unemployment woes, major coal producer Arch Coal announced Thursday that it will lay off nearly 600 Kentucky miners in several counties. Additionally, 150 will be laid off from a mine in West Virginia. Late Thursday, the St. Louis-based company announced it would idle several operations and reduce production at others in Appalachia "due to the unprecedented downturn for coal-based electricity." Arch's actions will mean a total job loss of 750 full-time positions, with about 79 percent of the jobs in Kentucky, 19 percent in West Virginia, and the rest in Virginia. Specific figures were not available Thursday, the company said. Arch's East Kentucky complex, in Pike and Martin counties, will be closed, as will the Knott County/Raven complex. Both employ hundreds. (Herald Leader - June 21, 2012)

New Kentucky-made Avalon features gasoline and hybrid powertrains

When the all-new, North American designed and engineered 2013 Avalon — manufactured in Georgetown, Ky. — goes on sale later this year, consumers can choose between a V6 gasoline powertrain and Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive. The efficiency offered by the new hybrid model will help the all-new premium mid-size sedan achieve excellent fuel economy with an EPA-rating of 40 mpg combined. In addition to offering a hybrid powertrain, the new Avalon features a new design, improved performance and a highly spacious, comfortable interior experience with an abundance of convenience technologies. The 2013 Avalon will feature a proven 3.5-liter, DOHC V6 engine coupled with a six-speed automatic transaxle, which has been enhanced to offer more responsive and efficient performance. (The Lane Report - June 26, 2012)

NASCAR goes green with tree effort

NASCAR will leave Northern Kentucky a little bit greener following Saturday's Sprint Cup Series Quaker State 400 at the Kentucky Speedway. For every green flag dropped at the race, 10 trees will be planted at Turkey Foot Middle School in Edgewood as part of the NASCAR Clean Air Tree Planting Program. A green flag is dropped at the beginning of the race, and also whenever racing resumes following a wreck or other delay, which are known as cautions. "What's cool about it is, it's tied to the competition: its 10 trees for every green flag that drops at the race. We have, on average, 10 green flags (per race), between the start of the race and the cautions," said Mike Lynch, managing director of green innovation for NASCAR. (Cincinnati.com - June 27, 2012)

Kentucky company first in U.S. to earn RESNET EnergySmart program title

Louisville Gas & Electric and Kentucky Utilities (LG&E and KU), headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, is the first utility company in the United States to be recognized as a RESNET EnergySmart Program. The company, which owns and operates Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company, entered into an agreement with RESNET to educate consumers about the benefits of energy efficient homes by marketing the home energy rating system (HERS) Index score for newly constructed homes. Created by RESNET to give consumers a better understanding about the differences between homes - similar to the miles-per-gallon sticker on a new car - the HERS Index is a nationally recognized system for measuring a home's energy efficiency. A lower HERS Index score means a more energy efficient home. (Market Watch - June 26, 2012)

New efficiency standards for clothes washers, dishwashers

New energy-efficiency standards for residential clothes washers and dishwashers were announced by the U.S. Energy Department. Under the new rules, announced in May, front-loading clothes washers will use 15 percent less energy and 35 percent less water. Top-loading clothes washers will use 33 percent less energy and 19 percent less water. For dishwashers, the savings will be about 15 percent on energy and more than 20 percent on water. (The Sacramento Bee - June 25, 2012)

US court upholds agency's global warming rules

A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld the first-ever U.S. regulations aimed at reducing the gases blamed for global warming, handing down perhaps the most significant decision on the issue since a 2007 Supreme Court ruling that greenhouse gases could be controlled as air pollutants. The rules, which had been challenged by industry groups and several states, will reduce emissions of six heat-trapping gases from large industrial facilities such as factories and power plants, as well as from automobile tailpipes. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington said that the Environmental Protection Agency was "unambiguously correct" in using existing federal law to address global warming, denying two of the challenges to four separate regulations and dismissing the others. Michael Gerrard, director of the Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University, said no one expected the sweeping decision issued by the court Tuesday, and said the move was exceeded in importance only by the Supreme Court ruling five years ago. (Fox News - June 26, 2012)

Energy saving tips for summer

With temperatures set to soar in Kentuckiana this week, AC units are about to kick into high gear. Experts advice to get the most bang for your energy bill buck, it is important to keep units properly maintained. Ron Walker is a veteran service technician with BJ Heating and Cooling in southern Indiana. He sees firsthand that neglected units become costly units. "If the outdoor unit, if it's not kept clean or if the filter is dirty, yes, you're going to have problems" Walker said. (Wave 3 - June 26, 2012)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	6/28/2012	6/21/2012	6/14/2012	6/7/2012	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	3.23	3.357	3.412	3.455	3.409
Ashland	3.334	3.423	3.535	3.6	3.442
Covington	3.491	3.603	3.689	3.683	3.481
Lexington	3.15	3.311	3.453	3.484	3.348
Louisville	3.362	3.514	3.436	3.491	3.446
Owensboro	3.205	3.314	3.361	3.365	3.417
Diesel (State avg.)	3.652	3.722	3.77	3.816	3.833
Ashland	3.663	3.726	3.778	3.828	3.774
Covington	3.723	3.802	3.843	3.856	3.845
Lexington	3.67	3.749	3.789	3.838	3.773
Louisville	3.701	3.769	3.82	3.876	3.827
Owensboro	3.689	3.768	3.831	3.846	3.88

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	6/27/2012	6/20/2012	6/13/2012	6/6/2012	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	80.21	81.8	82.62	85.02	94.77
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	2.88	2.57	2.195	2.395	4.38

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		12-Jul	12-Aug	12-Sep
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	6/27/2012	*	80.21	80.61
	6/20/2012	81.80	81.45	81.84
	6/13/2012	82.62	82.92	83.19
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	6/27/2012	2.774	2.798	2.809
	6/20/2012	2.517	2.555	2.548
	6/13/2012	2.185	2.236	2.281
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	6/27/2012	0.801	0.808	0.82
	6/20/2012	0.822	0.831	0.844
	6/13/2012	0.769	0.777	0.788
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	6/27/2012	54.98	55.53	55.92
	6/20/2012	54.18	54.51	54.76
	6/13/2012	54.57	54.88	55.15

Source: CME Group

* - Information Not Available



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