

Can Coal Feed The Global Energy Appetite In A Healthy Way?

No other fuel source has been tarred more than coal. Yet, no other product has done more to electrify the global population and to bring prosperity to so many. The question the world now faces is whether to up the stakes in relatively cheap coal or whether to make investments in and to depend on sustainable fuels. That's the proposition that the International Energy Agency's Executive Director Maria van der Hoeven put forth as she unveiled the agency's Medium-Term Coal Market Report for 2013. (www.forbes.com Dec. 19, 2013)

Electricity Prices To Jump Throughout Region Due To Natural Gas Concerns

Electric generation rates throughout New England are facing steep increases in 2014, pushing power costs in Connecticut close to 20 percent higher for some residents. The jump in standard service rates in Connecticut, however, is smaller than increases in other New England states. In Massachusetts, rates will increase by as much as 38 percent. In Rhode Island, the electric costs are set to increase by 27 percent. The higher prices affect just the generation portion of the bill for customers who haven't switched to a third-party electric supplier. (<http://articles.courant.com> Dec. 17, 2013)

Meritor Teams with TVA, Franklin Electric to Save Energy

Meritor, Inc. (NYSE: MTOR) today celebrated completion of multiple energy-saving projects to reduce the plant's annual power consumption by more than 2.3 million kilowatt-hours — enough electricity to supply about 170 homes in the Franklin area for a year. The site was also awarded a \$200,545 rebate through its partnership with the Franklin Electric Plant Board (EPB) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). (www.prnewswire.com Dec. 17, 2013)

Ky. lawmakers file brief in case before high court

Kentucky's U.S. senators and its five Republican congressmen joined Monday in a legal fight before the U.S. Supreme Court, filing a brief that challenges environmental regulations on coal-fired power plants. The "friend of the court" brief says the Environmental Protection Agency overstepped its authority. The brief was filed in a case that's an outgrowth of a 2007 Supreme Court ruling that cleared the EPA to regulate greenhouse gases under its authority to control air pollutants. (www.whas11.com Dec. 17, 2013)

Half the easements acquired to build natural gas liquids pipeline in Kentucky, officials say

The company planning to build a natural gas liquids pipeline that would go through Kentucky has secured easements for a little more than half of the 182 miles of new construction, representatives told a crowd Monday night. All the easements needed for Bracken and Owen counties have been acquired, company representatives said (www.kentucky.com Dec. 16, 2013)

More on the Data Behind the Decline in Kentucky's Coal Industry

Yesterday, WFPL aired a story about the long relationship Eastern Kentucky residents have had with the coal industry, and where coal's decline leaves the region. Read: [Hollowed Mountains, Now Hollowed Towns: Coal in Eastern Kentucky](#). Both the story and the various economic factors at play in Eastern Kentucky are complicated. But I wanted to call attention to one very important point: that even though there's been a noticeable decline in the eastern coalfields over the past two years, there's probably going to be an even greater decline in the demand for Eastern Kentucky coal over the next two years. (www.wfpl.org Dec. 12, 2013)

Scrubbers at Big Sandy plant might not help eastern Kentucky coal

Lawrence County officials and supporters of eastern Kentucky coal are reeling from the Public Service Commission's approval of an agreement allowing Kentucky Power Company to idle its coal-fired generating units at its Big Sandy facility in Louisa. They hope an appeal of the agreement by Attorney General Jack Conway might somehow result in the installation of scrubbers at Big Sandy that would allow the facility to continue burning about 2.5 million tons of eastern Kentucky coal each year. (www.richmondregister.com Dec. 18, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	12/19/2013	12/12/2013	12/5/2013	11/21/2013	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.16	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.27	\$ 3.13
Ashland	\$ 3.21	\$ 3.28	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.20
Covington	\$ 3.19	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.26	\$ 3.16
Lexington	\$ 3.10	\$ 3.22	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.06
Louisville	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.28	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.15
Owensboro	\$ 3.12	\$ 3.20	\$ 3.21	\$ 3.26	\$ 3.11
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.99
Ashland	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.92	\$ 4.00
Covington	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.89	\$ 4.03
Lexington	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.85	\$ 4.00
Louisville	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.96
Owensboro	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.91	\$ 4.00

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,

Product	12/16/2013	12/9/2013	12/2/2013	11/18/2013	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.48	\$ 3.67
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 2.38	\$ 2.30	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.27	\$ 2.10

Spot Prices	12/18/2013	12/11/2013	12/4/2013	11/20/2013	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 98.83	\$ 97.64	\$ 97.63	\$ 95.28	\$ 89.76
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 4.26	\$ 4.23	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.62	\$ 3.26

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		January 2014	February 2014	March 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	12/18/2013	\$ 97.80	\$ 98.06	\$ 97.92
	12/11/2013	\$ 97.44	\$ 97.72	\$ 97.72
	12/4/2013	\$ 97.20	\$ 97.43	\$ 97.45
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	12/18/2013	\$ 4.25	\$ 4.27	\$ 4.26
	12/11/2013	\$ 4.34	\$ 4.33	\$ 4.30
	12/4/2013	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.94
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	12/18/2013	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.26	\$ 1.17
	12/11/2013	\$ 1.31	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.20
	12/4/2013	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.24	\$ 1.18
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	12/18/2013	\$ 55.50	\$ 55.49	\$ 55.25
	12/11/2013	\$ 57.25	\$ 57.48	\$ 57.78
	12/4/2013	\$ 55.94	\$ 56.29	\$ 56.75

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.

