

### ***House GOP Plans Mega-Hearing on Climate Change***

After virtually ignoring the nation's biggest environmental issue for years, Republican leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee are planning a major hearing on climate change on Sept. 18 and are inviting leaders of 13 federal agencies to testify. It will be the first time since President Obama unveiled his climate action plan in June that administration officials will testify on Capitol Hill about the agenda. Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., who will preside over the hearing, sent out letters Aug. 6 inviting testimony from leaders of the Environmental Protection Agency; the departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Interior, State, and Transportation; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Commerce Department; NASA; the U.S. Agency for International Development; the Export-Import Bank; and the White House Office of Science and Technology. ([www.nationaljournal.com](http://www.nationaljournal.com) August 21, 2013)  
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### ***TVA rates rise as power sales decline in the Tennessee Valley***

The Tennessee Valley Authority will boost its base electric rates this fall for the first time in two years, but most consumers may not notice the difference. Power rates will rise 1.5 percent in October when the new fiscal year begins, adding about \$1.50 a month to the average residential electric bill under a \$10.5 billion spending plan approved Thursday by TVA directors. But most of that increase is being offset with lower monthly fuel cost adjustments by TVA, which are projected to lower the average electric bill next month by about 6 percent below year-ago levels. ([www.timesfreepress.com](http://www.timesfreepress.com) August 23, 2013)

### ***Ky., Ind. college students working on solar house concept to replace FEMA trailers***

Students from three universities are working on a solar house concept they hope will be useful as low-cost, energy-efficient housing after natural disasters. The team from the University of Louisville, University of Kentucky and Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., is putting the final touches on the Phoenix House — a domicile that may one day replace temporary trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. University of Louisville civil and environmental engineering professor Mark McGinley told The Courier-Journal the team wanted a modular home that could be assembled quickly and transported by truck to a disaster location. ([www.postandcourier.com](http://www.postandcourier.com) August 26, 2013)

### ***Natural gas cost increases for Columbia Gas customers***

Columbia Gas of Kentucky has received approval from the Kentucky Public Service Commission for a gas cost adjustment. Effective Wednesday, Columbia Gas of Kentucky's gas supply cost is \$6.67 per 1,000 cubic feet, up from \$5.13. The new gas supply cost will stay in effect until December. Columbia Gas said in a news release that a customer's monthly bill comprises two main components: gas supply cost and delivery costs. (The Herald Leader, August 28, 2013)

### ***PSC hears testimony on biomass power agreement***

The Public Service Commission heard testimony on Wednesday regarding Kentucky Power Company's proposal to purchase electricity from a planned biomass plant in Perry County. Kentucky Power CEO Greg Pauley testified during the hearing in Frankfort that costly federal regulations led to the company's decision to scuttle its coal-fired capabilities at the Big Sandy plant in Lawrence County. A plan to purchase renewable power from ecoPower Generation's biomass plant, which will utilize waste wood products such as saw dust, wood chips, and low-quality logs to generate electricity, would replace more than 50 megawatts of power while also adding a renewable power source to Kentucky Power's energy portfolio. ([www.hazard-herald.com](http://www.hazard-herald.com) August 28, 2013)

### ***Senate urges pipeline project to avoid eminent domain in property negotiations***

The Senate on Friday supported a resolution urging companies involved with the Bluegrass Pipeline to negotiate acquisitions with landowners without using the threat of eminent domain. Sen. Jimmy Higdon, a Lebanon Republican who sponsored the measure, said he doesn't believe the pipeline meets legal criteria to use the controversial procedure in Kentucky and that many lawmakers are interested in preserving private property rights. The resolution argues that eminent domain should be reserved for utilities and other projects that directly serve the public. It also asks the state Public Service Commission to examine the issue and fill any potential gaps in oversight. ([www.courier-journal.com](http://www.courier-journal.com) August 23, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

| Product                      | 8/29/2013 | 8/22/2013 | 8/15/2013 | 8/8/2013 | Year Ago |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Gasoline (State avg.)</b> | \$ 3.59   | \$ 3.47   | \$ 3.45   | \$ 3.51  | \$ 3.81  |
| Ashland                      | \$ 3.63   | \$ 3.51   | \$ 3.53   | \$ 3.47  | \$ 3.92  |
| Covington                    | \$ 3.61   | \$ 3.55   | \$ 3.56   | \$ 3.64  | \$ 3.92  |
| Lexington                    | \$ 3.55   | \$ 3.45   | \$ 3.45   | \$ 3.50  | \$ 3.88  |
| Louisville                   | \$ 3.76   | \$ 3.58   | \$ 3.50   | \$ 3.63  | \$ 3.75  |
| Owensboro                    | \$ 3.57   | \$ 3.40   | \$ 3.31   | \$ 3.38  | \$ 3.72  |
| <b>Diesel (State avg.)</b>   | \$ 3.91   | \$ 3.87   | \$ 3.87   | \$ 3.88  | \$ 4.01  |
| Ashland                      | \$ 3.93   | \$ 3.89   | \$ 3.89   | \$ 3.92  | \$ 4.05  |
| Covington                    | \$ 3.93   | \$ 3.87   | \$ 3.87   | \$ 3.89  | \$ 3.96  |
| Lexington                    | \$ 3.94   | \$ 3.91   | \$ 3.91   | \$ 3.92  | \$ 4.03  |
| Louisville                   | \$ 3.90   | \$ 3.84   | \$ 3.85   | \$ 3.88  | \$ 3.97  |
| Owensboro                    | \$ 3.88   | \$ 3.88   | \$ 3.87   | \$ 3.88  | \$ 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,

| Spot Prices   | 8/28/2013 | 8/21/2013 | 8/14/2013 | 8/7/2013  | Year Ago |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel)<br><i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i> | \$ 109.67 | \$ 105.08 | \$ 107.37 | \$ 102.73 | \$ 94.61 |
| Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu)<br><i>Henry-Hub</i>                   | \$ 3.56   | \$ 3.51   | \$ 3.36   | \$ 3.30   | \$ 2.65  |

Source: the Wall Street Journal

| Futures  |           | October 2013 | November 2013 |
|--|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel)<br><i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i> | 8/28/2013 | \$ 110.10    | \$ 109.37     |
|  |           |              |               |
| Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu)<br><i>Henry-Hub</i>            | 8/28/2013 | \$ 3.58      | \$ 3.69       |
|  |           |              |               |
| Propane (Dollars per gallon)<br><i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>       | 8/28/2013 | \$ 1.17      | \$ 1.17       |
|  |           |              |               |
|  | 8/28/2013 | \$ 51.85     | \$ 51.95      |

Source: CME Group



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