

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Duke Energy talks turbines at fiscal court meeting

A representative from Duke Energy attended Fleming County Fiscal Court Tuesday to discuss a wind turbine project proposed in Fleming and Mason counties. About 25 residents were on hand from Mason and Fleming counties to listen to a presentation and ask questions of the Duke Energy representative. "This is a new project for Fleming and Mason counties," Fleming Judge-Executive Larry Foxworthy said. "This presentation will give us a better understanding of what this project will entail. This is simply a preliminary meeting. We don't know much about this project and we're here for information only." Duke Energy Director of Business Management Graham Furlong gave a short PowerPoint presentation on the benefits of renewable energy. (The Ledger Independent - Sept. 10, 2013)

Lawmakers hear testimony on proposed natural gas pipeline

A proposed interstate natural gas liquids pipeline that would impact landowners in at least 25 Kentucky counties does not qualify under the state's eminent domain law, the head of the state's Energy and Environment Cabinet on Thursday quoted his agency's general counsel as saying. Cabinet Secretary Len Peters made the comment during Thursday's meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Environment in Frankfort. He said while his agency does not have the authority to stop the proposed "Bluegrass Pipeline" project — which would transport natural gas liquids (NGLs) like ethane and propane extracted from natural gas deposits in the Northeast U.S. through Kentucky and surrounding states and on to the Gulf Coast — the Cabinet's legal counsel does not believe the power of eminent domain can be invoked by the companies hoping to establish the 1,123 mile NGL pipeline through Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and down to the Gulf. (The Lane Report - Sept. 6, 2013)

DLG announces energy efficiency workshops for local officials

The Department for Local Government (DLG) today announced a series of free, energy efficiency workshops available to local officials across the state. The workshops will explain Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs), a cost-effective way for local governments to undertake and finance energy efficiency improvements on government facilities. The workshops will detail the importance of energy efficiency, the cost of delaying retrofits and the value in performance contracting. Each workshop will cover the financial aspects of ESPCs, how communities have successfully used ESPCs and how to navigate and understand the complexities of performance contracting. Technical advisers will be on-hand at each workshop to offer assistance to officials interested in utilizing ESPCs in their local communities. Lt. Gov. Jerry Abramson will participate in several of the workshops, which fit into Gov. Steve Beshear's Energy plan for Kentucky. (SurfKY.com - Sept. 7, 2013)

Thousands Attend Madisonville Rally

The message from the Hopkins County Coal Rally was plain — "We are fighting back in Obama's war on coal." U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Hopkinsville, spoke to a crowd of thousands during a rally held on the Hopkins County Fairgrounds. He was joined by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, state representatives Jim Gooch and Ben Waide, Hopkins County Attorney Todd O'Pool as well as representatives of several coal advocacy groups. Whitfield, chairman of the House Energy and Power subcommittee, said the rally provides an avenue for getting the message out to America that coal fuels the economy. "Opportunities like this are very important to help educate Americans," said Whitfield prior to taking the podium. "We are the only country in the world where you cannot get a permit to build a new coal-fired power plant. Other countries' economies are booming while ours is sagging. Those countries are building coal-fired plants to generate affordable electricity, which fuels their economies." (SurfKY.com - Sept. 5, 2013)

KU presents UK a \$1-million check

Slowly but surely, the University of Kentucky has been chipping away at its utility bills. After two years of concerted efforts to conserve, the payoff came today as Kentucky Utilities Company presented the university with a commercial rebate check of more than \$1 - million. Retrofitting new, energy-efficient replacement parts to the infrastructure of many of the aging buildings on campus has made the difference, a million-dollar difference. UK received the rebates through the Commercial Rebate Program offered by KU and Louisville Gas and Electric Company, which gives qualified commercial customers cash incentives to replace aging, less efficient equipment. "These are ongoing savings due to our conservation program with KU," said Bob Wiseman, executive vice president for Facilities Management. The savings continue to mount for the university, and we are very pleased with the results." More than three years ago, UK embarked on an ambitious plan to dramatically reduce its energy usage. (WTVQ-Lex. - Sept. 12, 2013)

Analysis: 50% reduction in cost of renewable energy since 2008

Renewable energy becoming more cost-competitive with fossil fuels isn't news — as technology improves and more clean power generation comes online, electricity without emissions gets cheaper. But one new analysis reveals just how shockingly cheap it's gotten. The levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) from wind and solar sources in America has fallen by more than 50% over the past four years, according to Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis 7.0, recently released by global financial advisor and asset manager firm Lazard Freres & Co. Lazard's analysis compared the LCOE for various renewable energy technologies to fossil fuels on a cost per megawatt hour (MWh) basis, including factors like US federal tax subsidies, fuel costs, geography, and capital costs. (CleanTechnica - Sept. 22, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	9/12/2013	9/5/2013	8/29/2013	8/22/2013	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.86
Ashland	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.95
Covington	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.93
Lexington	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.95
Louisville	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.84
Owensboro	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.57	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.75
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.87	\$ 4.06
Ashland	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.98	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.89	\$ 4.09
Covington	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.87	\$ 4.04
Lexington	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.91	\$ 4.08
Louisville	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.84	\$ 4.04
Owensboro	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.88	\$ 4.08

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	9/11/2013	9/4/2013	8/28/2013	8/21/2013	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	\$ 107.56	\$ 108.15	\$ 109.67	\$ 105.08	\$ 95.34
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.51	\$ 2.94

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	9/11/2012	\$ 107.56	\$ 106.64	\$ 105.09
	9/4/2013	\$ 107.23	\$ 106.59	\$ 105.39
MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	9/11/2013	\$ 3.57	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.80
	9/4/2013	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.92
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mr Bolton (OPL)</i>	9/11/2013	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.11
	9/4/2013	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.18
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	9/11/2013	\$ 51.19	\$ 51.19	\$ 51.19
	9/4/2013	\$ 50.84	\$ 50.88	\$ 50.91

Source: CME Group



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