

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Obama officials: Rule won't kill coal-fired power

President Barack Obama's top energy and environmental officials said Wednesday there is a future for coal, despite a pending regulation aimed at limiting global warming pollution from new power plants that Republicans and the coal industry say will doom the fuel source. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, questioned at a House hearing, both said coal-fired power would continue. Coal makes up about 40 per cent of U.S. electricity. (www.globalnews.ca Sept. 18, 2013)

Beshear: Kentucky will seek flexibility on federal greenhouse gas rules

Kentucky will press federal officials for flexibility in meeting greenhouse gas emission rules as the state tries to preserve coal jobs and keep electricity prices down, Gov. Steve Beshear said Tuesday. Federal rules aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants will hit hard in Kentucky, which gets more than 92 percent of its electricity from coal-fired power plants, is a major coal producer and has many energy-intensive industries. (The Herald Leader, Sept. 17, 2013)

Coal's future darkens around the world

The future of coal is getting darker. Economic forces, pollution concerns and competition from cleaner fuels are slowly nudging nations around the globe away from the fuel that made the industrial revolution possible. The U.S. will burn 943 million tons of coal this year, only about as much as it did in 1993. Now it's on the verge of adopting pollution rules that may all but prohibit the construction of new coal plants. And China, which burns 4 billion tons of coal a year — as much as the rest of the world combined — is taking steps to slow the staggering growth of its coal consumption and may even be approaching a peak. (The Herald Leader, Sept. 18, 2013)

Tanners Creek Plant Will Close In 2015

More than 100 employees at the Tanners Creek Power Plant in Lawrenceburg will be looking for new jobs soon. On Tuesday, American Electric Power subsidiary Indiana Michigan Power announced that the Tanners Creek coal-fired plant will be completely shut down by mid-2015. The writing was perhaps on the wall prior to Tuesday's announcement. AEP announced in 2011 that it would stop three of the four generating units at Tanners Creek in an effort to meet federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations on emissions. An agreement reached in February 2013 provided the option of refueling or retiring the fourth generator. (www.eagle-countryonline.com Sept. 18, 2013)

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and Republic Conduit Receive Energy Leadership Awards

The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and Republic Conduit Corp. today were presented Energy Leadership Awards during the Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment at the Lexington Convention Center. Energy Leadership Awards recognize leaders in the Kentucky energy field who have made significant contributions by promoting and utilizing energy efficiency and alternative energy sources as a way to achieve their sustainability goals and cut costs. (www.eecky.gov Sept. 18, 2013)

Join utility-environmentalist project on Ky. energy efficiency

Since early in 2011, we have been working together on a challenging project. The East Kentucky Power Cooperative Demand-Side Management and Renewable Energy Collaborative was established as a joint project of EKPC, its 16 owner-member cooperatives, the Sierra Club, the Kentucky Environmental Foundation and Kentuckians For The Commonwealth. The Mountain Association for Economic Development and the Federation for Appalachian Housing also became members. The collaborative has been meeting for two years to evaluate and recommend actions for EKPC to expand deployment of renewable energy and demand-side management and to promote collaboration among participants in the implementation of those ideas. (The Herald Leader, Sept. 18, 2013) Mus cre,

States Challenge EPA Plans to Regulate Carbon Emissions From Power Plants

At the end of this week, the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release an updated draft rule to limit carbon emissions from new power plants. Environmentalists call the regulation long overdue, but Republican lawmakers are pushing back. A white-paper report released by House Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., on Friday says state regulators should decide how to manage greenhouse-gas emissions from power plants. (www.nationaljournal.com Sept. 16, 2013)

More than 500 miners across E.Ky furloughed from James River Coal

Officials with James River Coal Company have confirmed to Mountain News they have furloughed 525 coal miners at three mines across our region. Officials with the Richmond, Virginia based company said Monday night the layoffs occurred at operations at the McCoy Elkhorn complex in Pike and Floyd counties, the Bledsoe complex in Leslie and Harlan counties and the Long Branch Surface mine in London. (www.wkyt.com Sept. 17, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	9/19/2013	9/12/2013	9/5/2013	8/29/2013	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.81
Ashland	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.85
Covington	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.94
Lexington	\$ 3.34	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.84
Louisville	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.76
Owensboro	\$ 3.30	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.57	\$ 3.79
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.91	\$ 4.06
Ashland	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.98	\$ 3.93	\$ 4.09
Covington	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.93	\$ 4.04
Lexington	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.94	\$ 4.07
Louisville	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.90	\$ 4.02
Owensboro	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.88	\$ 4.10

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	9/18/2013	9/11/2013	9/4/2013	8/28/2013	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 106.75	\$ 107.56	\$ 108.15	\$ 109.67	\$ 92.14
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.56	\$ 2.70

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	9/18/2013	\$ 105.42	\$ 104.82	\$ 103.46
	9/11/2012	\$ 107.56	\$ 106.64	\$ 105.09
	9/4/2013	\$ 107.23	\$ 106.59	\$ 105.39
MMBtu <i>Henry-Hub</i>	9/18/2013	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.79	\$ 3.94
	9/11/2013	\$ 3.57	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.80
	9/4/2013	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.92
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	9/18/2013	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.13
	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>	9/18/2013	\$ 51.96	\$ 52.11	\$ 52.23
	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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