

House backs bill to block EPA power plant rule

The Republican-controlled House moved Thursday to block President Barack Obama's plan to limit carbon pollution from new power plants, an election-year strike at the White House aimed at portraying Obama as a job killer. (www.kansascity.com March 6, 2014)

EKU boasts first LEED Gold residence hall on state university campus in Kentucky

A recent award underscores Eastern Kentucky University's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The first LEED Gold-certified residence hall on a state university campus in the commonwealth is located on EKU's Richmond campus. To earn the honor, the university's newest residence hall, an 84,000-s.f., suite-style facility on Kit Carson Drive, met stringent standards related to sustainability, energy and water efficiency, indoor environmental quality, materials and resources used in construction, and design innovations. (www.lanereport.com March 3, 2014)

EPA Finalizes Tier 3 Emission & Fuel Standards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized Tier 3 emission standards designed to reduce air pollution from passenger cars and trucks. Starting in 2017, Tier 3 sets new vehicle emissions standards and lowers the sulfur content of gasoline, considering the vehicle and its fuel as an integrated system. The vehicle standards reduce tailpipe and evaporative emissions from passenger cars, light-duty trucks, medium-duty passenger vehicles and some heavy-duty vehicles, the agency said. (www.cspnet.com March 3, 2014)

N.C. Cites 5 Duke Energy Plants for Lacking Permits

North Carolina regulators have cited five more Duke Energy power plants for lacking required storm water permits after a massive spill at one of the company's coal ash dumps coated 70 miles of the Dan River in toxic sludge. The state Department of Environment and Natural Resources announced Monday that Charlotte-based Duke Energy had been issued formal notices of violation for not having the needed permits, which are required to legally discharge rainwater draining from its plants into public waterways. (<http://nation.time.com> March 4, 2014)

Eastern Kentucky coal deal with India stalls

In August 2012, Gov. Steve Beshear and private-sector energy executives announced a deal that would send 9 million tons of Eastern Kentucky coal to India, holding the promise of reviving the region's sagging economy. "International markets need coal, and this private partnership is a great example of a new market for Kentucky resources," Beshear said at the time, predicting "a long and successful partnership with many more economic opportunities." (www.courier-journal.com March 2, 2014)

In Eastern Kentucky, 'there's so many people unemployed, fighting over so few jobs'

With snow falling outside at times, John Sturgill joined nearly 300 laid-off Eastern Kentucky coal miners at a job fair last Wednesday for a company planning to hire about 40 people. The 32-year-old father of three was laid off in April last year from a mine in Letcher County, where he lives. He found a job at a mine in West Virginia, staying there to work through the week and coming home on weekends, but it ran out in November. (www.kentucky.com March 1, 2014)

U.S. Hopes Boom in Natural Gas Can Curb Putin

The crisis in Crimea is heralding the rise of a new era of American energy diplomacy, as the Obama administration tries to deploy the vast new supply of natural gas in the United States as a weapon to undercut the influence of the Russian president, Vladimir V. Putin, over Ukraine and Europe. The crisis has escalated a State Department initiative to use a new boom in American natural gas supplies as a lever against Russia, which supplies 60 percent of Ukraine's natural gas and has a history of cutting off the supply during conflicts. (www.nytimes.com March 5, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	3/6/2014	2/27/2014	2/20/2014	2/13/2014	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.43	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.32	\$ 3.66
Ashland	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.43	\$ 3.70
Covington	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.39	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.76
Lexington	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.65
Louisville	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.33	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.66
Owensboro	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.38	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.59
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.08	\$ 3.99	\$ 4.07
Ashland	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.16	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.07	\$ 4.09
Covington	\$ 4.22	\$ 4.23	\$ 4.21	\$ 4.04	\$ 4.10
Lexington	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.03	\$ 4.10
Louisville	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.10
Owensboro	\$ 4.16	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.02	\$ 3.95	\$ 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,

Product	3/3/2014	2/24/2014	2/17/2014	2/10/2014	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.79	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.72
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 2.94	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.68	\$ 2.18

Spot Prices	3/5/2014	2/19/2014	2/12/2014	2/5/2014	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 105.34	\$ 103.46	\$ 100.29	\$ 96.44	\$ 91.53
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 6.50	\$ 5.98	\$ 6.28	\$ 7.45	\$ 3.57

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		April 2014	May 2014	June 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	3/5/2014	\$ 101.45	\$ 100.88	\$ 99.99
	2/26/2014	\$ 102.59	\$ 101.77	\$ 100.77
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3/5/2014	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.48	\$ 4.51
	2/26/2014	\$ 4.54	\$ 4.46	\$ 4.48
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	3/5/2014	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.04
	2/26/2014	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.06
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	3/5/2014	\$ 61.63	\$ 61.48	\$ 61.53
	2/26/2014	\$ 63.75	\$ 63.60	\$ 63.45

Source: CME Group

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