

Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Indiana energy efficiency program could end

It's a program aimed at saving Hoosiers money by helping them become more energy-efficient. Yet, Republican State Senator Jim Merritt said it could be costing Hoosiers more than they think. "Since 2009, the Energizing Indiana program has cost rate payers \$500 million and will cost as much as \$1.9 billion more by 2019," said Merritt. Indiana residents are charged about \$1.50 per month to fund Energizing Indiana. That money is used to provide no-cost energy efficiency audits for homes, businesses and schools. (<http://wlf.com> March 11, 2014)

Obama again wants to examine ending federal ties to TVA

President Barack Obama signaled Tuesday he still wants the federal government to sell its ownership stake in the nation's largest federal utility, the Tennessee Valley Authority. His proposed 2015 fiscal year budget praises TVA for undertaking "a major internal review" over the past year and having "taken significant steps to improve its future operating and financial performance." (www.tennessean.com March 5, 2014)

US gasoline jumps to five-month high

The average price for regular gasoline at U.S. pumps gained 9.87 cents in the past two weeks to \$3.5098 a gallon, the highest since Sept. 20, according to Lundberg Survey Inc. The survey covers the period ended Friday, March 7 and is based on information obtained at about 2,500 filling stations by the Camarillo, Calif.-based company. The average retail price is almost 23 cents below year-ago levels, Lundberg said. (www.chicagotribune.com March 9, 2014)

Can Kemper become the first US power plant to use 'clean coal'?

The massive block of steel towers and pipes rises out of the morning fog like a sci-fi fantasy. But this coal-fired power plant could help save the climate, or at least that's the hope of the Obama administration. The plant in east-central Mississippi was repeatedly invoked by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to justify sweeping new climate change rules. When it comes online later this year, Kemper will be the first power plant in the US capable of capturing and storing carbon dioxide emissions. (www.theguardian.com March 12, 2014)

Kentucky Coal Tax Revenue Falls to Decade-Low in February Slump

Kentucky's revenue from coal production fell to \$13.3 million in February, a 26 percent decrease from the same month last year and the lowest monthly total since 2004, according to data released yesterday. February's total trailed forecasts more than 20 percent. Kentucky coal-severance tax collections are on track to post their second-straight year of annual declines, after falling 22.7 percent to \$231 million in fiscal 2013, state data show. The decrease reflects a national coal slowdown and the increasing popularity of hydraulic fracturing for low-cost natural gas. (www.businessweek.com March 10, 2014)

Coal to the Rescue, but Maybe Not Next Winter

When the temperature here dropped into the teens this winter, ice formed on the inside of Ernestine J. Cundiff's windows in the drafty 50-year-old apartment building where she lives. At 81, with diabetes, poor circulation in her legs and both shoulders damaged in separate falls last year, Ms. Cundiff said wearing leggings and fur-lined slippers was not enough to keep her warm, so she took to using an electric space heater in her bedroom. Then came the electric bill, \$96.75 in January, up about 50 percent from the previous month. (www.nytimes.com March 11, 2014)

House Passes Bill to Block Obama Climate Plan

Aiming at the heart of President Barack Obama's strategy for fighting climate change, the Republican-controlled House voted Thursday to block the administration's plan to limit carbon pollution from new power plants. The bill targets Obama's proposal for the Environmental Protection Agency to set the first national limits on heat-trapping carbon pollution from future power plants. It's part of the GOP's election-year strategy to fight back against what Republicans call a "war on coal" by the Obama administration. The bill passed by a 229-183 vote. Ten Democrats, mostly from coal-producing states or the South, joined Republicans in support of it. Three Republicans opposed the bill. A similar measure is pending in the Senate but faces a more difficult path. (www.abnews.go.com March 6, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	3/13/2014	3/6/2014	2/27/2014	2/20/2014	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.43	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.70
Ashland	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.80
Covington	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.39	\$ 3.74
Lexington	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.75
Louisville	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.33	\$ 3.59
Owensboro	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.38	\$ 3.55
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 4.09	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.08	\$ 4.04
Ashland	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.16	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.09
Covington	\$ 4.20	\$ 4.22	\$ 4.23	\$ 4.21	\$ 4.09
Lexington	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.08
Louisville	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.03
Owensboro	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.16	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.05

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	3/10/2014	3/3/2014	2/24/2014	2/17/2014	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 3.80	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.79	\$ 3.67
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 2.94	\$ 2.94	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.58	\$ 2.19

Spot Prices	3/12/2014	3/5/2014	2/19/2014	2/12/2014	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 100.29	\$ 105.34	\$ 103.46	\$ 100.29	\$ 93.03
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 4.69	\$ 6.50	\$ 5.98	\$ 6.28	\$ 3.72

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		April 2014	May 2014	June 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	3/12/2014	\$ 97.99	\$ 97.68	\$ 97.09
	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>	3/12/2014	\$ 4.49	\$ 4.44	\$ 4.47
	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>	3/12/2014	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.05
	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>	3/12/2014	\$ 60.15	\$ 60.23	\$ 60.40
	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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