

# Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

*A snapshot of state and national energy issues*



## ***Coal-reliant states readying for EPA power plant rules***

Long before the Obama administration promised sweeping rules to limit pollution from power plants, states in the crosshairs of what critics call a “war on coal” have been finding ways to meet the expected new standards. President Barack Obama last June directed the Environmental Protection Agency to propose national standards to lower carbon emissions from the more than 1,000 U.S. power plants, a centerpiece of his national climate strategy. ([www.jamestownsun.com](http://www.jamestownsun.com) April 2, 2014)

## ***Solar Power Bill Clears Senate Committee Hurdle***

South Carolina’s Senate Judiciary Committee gave a favorable report to a solar bill today that senators said would allow the state to catch up to its neighbors in the amount of solar energy generated. The bill, a collaborative effort between utilities, conservationists, solar business groups and electric cooperatives, was given a favorable report by a 19-1 vote. ([www.wltx.com](http://www.wltx.com) April 1, 2014)

## ***Pence allows bill killing Indiana’s energy-efficiency program to become law without signature***

Gov. Mike Pence will allow Indiana’s fledging statewide energy-efficiency program to end, saying Thursday night he will propose an alternative program for lawmakers to consider next year. The Republican governor said he would allow a bill ending the Energizing Indiana program to become law without his signature because he wasn’t entirely satisfied with the current program, but also disappointed that lawmakers killed it without offering a replacement. ([www.therepublic.com](http://www.therepublic.com) March 27, 2014)

## ***Tougher permitting for wind turbines***

The first reading of an ordinance aimed at construction permits for such structures as wind turbines was approved Thursday by Mason County officials. During a special meeting, Ordinance 14-04 was read in summary by County Attorney John Estill to fiscal court members Phil Day, Pat McKay IV, Annette Walters, and Judge-Executive James L “Buddy” Gallenstein. ([www.maysville-online.com](http://www.maysville-online.com) March 27, 2014)

## ***Groundbreaking marks next phase of development of energy-efficient affordable homes***

Local, state and federal officials joined community leaders Friday for a groundbreaking on the next phase of the energy-efficient Green Valley development in Whitley County. The development will include 13 Houseboat to Energy Efficient Residences (HBEER) units, built by Stardust Cruisers in Monticello, Ky. The units are being funded through a \$1 million community development block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered by the Kentucky Department for Local Government (DLG). ([www.lanereport.com](http://www.lanereport.com) March 31, 2014)

## ***Duke Energy coal-gasification plant’s power lags***

Duke Energy’s \$3.5 billion coal-gasification plant generated less than 1 percent of its power capacity during February amid lingering problems with the new plant’s equipment, the company told state regulators in a new report. Duke Energy disclosed the plant’s latest power generation figures Monday in a filing with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, The Indianapolis Star (<http://indy.st/IgieBvj>) reported. ([www.kentucky.com](http://www.kentucky.com) April 1, 2014)

## ***Costs rise another \$177 million at Kemper plant***

The Southern Co. says it will cost at least another \$177 million to finish the power plant it’s building in eastern Mississippi’s Kemper County, pushing the total cost above \$5.2 billion The Atlanta-based parent of Mississippi Power Co. said Wednesday that poor weather, unexpected turnover of construction employees and installation inefficiencies contributed to the extra costs. The utility is dividing the costs between \$152 million for construction and \$25 million for additional startup costs. ([www.kentucky.com](http://www.kentucky.com) April 2, 2014)

## ***Wood-burning power plants emit more pollution per megawatt than coal plants***

Power plants that burn wood to produce electricity emit comparatively more pollution than modern coal-fired power plants, according to a group that advocates tougher rules on the growing biomass-power industry. The issue is relevant in Kentucky because of a proposed wood-burning power plant near Hazard, called ecoPower Generation, the state’s first. ([www.kentucky.com](http://www.kentucky.com) April 2, 2014)

## ***Duke Energy says it needs time to clean coal ash***

Duke Energy’s chief executive said Wednesday the company is putting together a detailed plan to clean up nearly three dozen leaky coal ash pits across the state. But Lynn Good told a business group at a Charlotte luncheon that it could take time to complete the task because Duke was taking a “fact-based and disciplined approach” to the problem. Duke’s 14 coal-fired plants in North Carolina have 33 waste pits, all along lakes and rivers. ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) April 2, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	4/3/2014	3/27/2014	3/20/2014	3/13/2014	Year Ago
<b>Gasoline (State avg.)</b>	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.61
Ashland	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.54	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.61
Covington	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.76
Lexington	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.60
Louisville	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.75
Owensboro	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.47
<b>Diesel (State avg.)</b>	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.07	\$ 4.09	\$ 3.98
Ashland	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.13	\$ 3.99
Covington	\$ 4.16	\$ 4.14	\$ 4.17	\$ 4.20	\$ 4.01
Lexington	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.00
Louisville	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.07	\$ 4.08	\$ 4.10	\$ 3.97
Owensboro	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.09	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.03

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	4/1/2014	3/24/2014	3/19/2014	3/12/2014	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	\$ 99.69	\$ 100.05	\$ 100.08	\$ 100.29	\$ 93.26
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 4.33	\$ 4.40	\$ 4.45	\$ 4.69	\$ 4.01

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	4/2/2014	\$ 99.62	\$ 98.90	\$ 98.04
	3/26/2014	\$ 100.26	\$ 99.53	\$ 98.63
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	4/2/2014	\$ 4.36	\$ 4.40	\$ 4.44
	3/26/2014	\$ 4.40	\$ 4.42	\$ 4.46
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	4/2/2014	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.06
	3/26/2014	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.05
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	4/2/2014	\$ 59.38	\$ 60.10	\$ 60.85
	3/26/2014	\$ 60.33	\$ 60.38	\$ 61.10

Source: CME Group

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