

MSHA issues new coal dust limits for miners

Federal regulators announced long-awaited rules Wednesday to curb black-lung disease by reducing the amount of coal dust underground miners can be exposed to — but they retreated from plans to cut exposure levels in half. “No one should have to die for a paycheck,” Labor Secretary Thomas Perez said in Morgantown, W.Va., where the new standard was announced. “It is time to put black lung into the history books once and for all.” (www.courier-journal.com April 23, 2014)

Governor Beshear Signs Energy Bill on Earth Day

Since 1996, the Finance and Administration Cabinet has successfully implemented more than \$200 million in ESPC projects. “Finding ways to reduce state government’s energy and utility usage is the right thing to do,” said Gov. Beshear. “What’s even more important is that agencies can use the long term monetary savings to invest in critical programs like protecting our elderly and educating our children. It’s good stewardship of the environment and taxpayer dollars.” (<http://surfky.com> April 22, 2014)

Ky. Public Service Commission approves rate increase for Atmos Energy

Atmos Energy Corp. customers will see their bills rise after the company won approval for an \$8.5 million annual revenue increase. The amount is more than \$4.8 million less than the utility sought. The Kentucky Public Service Commission approval Tuesday means the typical residential customer using an average of 5,000 cubic feet of natural gas per month will have an increase of \$1.99 per month in the base portion of the bill. (www.dailyjournal.net April 23, 2014)

Environmental efforts in Kentucky schools recognized at Frankfort Earth Day ceremony

Gov. Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear marked Earth Week in Kentucky by congratulating several schools for efforts in energy conservation. “We need our young leaders of today to be just as involved in Earth Day 2014 as their counterparts were in 1970 when we celebrated the first Earth Day,” Beshear said. “That’s why it is important to recognize the work that our students are doing in the classroom with programs like Green and Healthy Schools. Our students are becoming game changers and we should encourage them to continue.” (www.kyforward.com April 16, 2014)

Growing demand for U.S. coal bypasses Eastern Kentucky but benefits western part of state

Coal, the former king of American energy, is making a comeback after being left for dead in favor of cleaner-burning natural gas. For years, coal has lost market share as the American fracking boom created a flood of cheap and abundant natural gas. But natural gas prices have edged upward, and the frigid winter created unprecedented energy demands. Power plants have increasingly turned to coal as the solution. (www.kentucky.com April 17, 2014)

Europe may replace Russian gas with US coal

While U.S. lawmakers are debating the merits of exporting natural gas to Europe to break Russia’s energy hold on the continent, one immediately exportable energy source has been overlooked: coal. U.S. coal exports have been booming in recent years due to rising demand around the world. In fact, some European countries are already using U.S. coal to displace costly Russian gas. Europe’s biggest importers of American coal include Germany and the United Kingdom. (<http://dailycaller.com> April 17, 2014)

West Middle School in Shelbyville, KY Named a Top Finisher in Energy Star National Building Competition

The West Middle School in Shelbyville, KY was recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a top finisher in the annual Energy Star National Building Competition: Battle of the Buildings. The school was recognized for reducing their energy use by over 28 percent. Teams from more than 3,000 buildings across the country spent the past year competing to obtain the greatest reduction in energy use. “When we save money on energy costs and increase energy efficiency, we all win,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. “I congratulate the competitors and finalists for their dedication to reducing emissions and carbon pollution, and for their leadership in increasing energy efficiency to combat the impacts of our changing climate.” (<http://yosemite.epa.gov> April 17, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	4/24/2014	4/17/2014	4/10/2014	4/3/2014	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.73	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.46
Ashland	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.60
Covington	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.67
Lexington	\$ 3.74	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.36
Louisville	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.62
Owensboro	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.35
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.03	\$ 4.04	\$ 4.05	\$ 3.92
Ashland	\$ 3.98	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.02	\$ 3.95
Covington	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.08	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.16	\$ 3.95
Lexington	\$ 4.07	\$ 4.08	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.11	\$ 3.93
Louisville	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.03	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.06	\$ 3.90
Owensboro	\$ 4.04	\$ 4.04	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.06	\$ 3.99

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	4/24/2014	4/14/2014	4/7/2014	4/1/2014	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	\$ 104.35	\$ 104.50	\$ 100.43	\$ 99.69	\$ 93.27
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 4.70	\$ 4.72	\$ 4.64	\$ 4.33	\$ 4.28

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	4/23/2014	\$ 102.13	\$ 101.44	\$ 100.85
	4/16/2014	\$ 103.76	\$ 103.03	\$ 102.20
	4/9/2014	\$ 103.60	\$ 102.65	\$ 101.68
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	4/23/2014	\$ 4.73	\$ 4.75	\$ 4.78
	4/16/2014	\$ 4.53	\$ 4.55	\$ 4.59
	4/9/2014	\$ 4.59	\$ 4.62	\$ 4.62
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	4/23/2014	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.12
	4/16/2014	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.13
	4/9/2014	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.11
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	4/23/2014	\$ 61.50	\$ 61.73	\$ 62.50
	4/16/2014	\$ 61.55	\$ 61.63	\$ 62.50
	4/9/2014	\$ 60.39	\$ 60.45	\$ 61.80

Source: CME Group



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