

Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Ohio's energy goals in flux

Under the latest revisions to a closely watched state Senate bill, Ohio's alternative-energy targets would be put on hold for two years as a panel of legislators studies the potential effects. The Senate Public Utilities Committee on Wednesday again backed off efforts to repeal the mandates, acknowledging that they continue to draw broad criticism. Several attempts to turn back the requirements altogether have failed. (www.journalgazette.net May 8, 2014)

Hopes for Keystone XL Vote Fade as Talks Fail

A bid by supporters of the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline to force a vote on the controversial project fell apart Wednesday amid partisan bickering over how the vote should be conducted. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., used a parliamentary maneuver to block a bid by pipeline supporters to include the pipeline measure in an energy efficiency bill moving forward in the Senate. (<http://abcnews.go.com> May 7, 2014)

TVA Honors Green Power Switch Leaders For Renewable Energy Commitments

The Tennessee Valley Authority is recognizing local power companies and regional businesses that are driving the success of TVA's Green Power Switch renewable energy program. TVA presented its annual Green Power Switch Leadership Awards to leading power companies in 14 categories at an event in Oak Ridge, Tenn., on Tuesday. "Green Power Switch is about consumers stepping forward to support the generation of cleaner energy in the Tennessee Valley," said Patty West, TVA director of Renewable Energy Solutions. (<http://chattanooga.com> May 7, 2014)

TVA to cut more than 10 percent of jobs

The Tennessee Valley Authority says 750 employees have retired or resigned through a voluntary incentive program, another 1,000 vacant positions are being eliminated and more cuts are on the way. The Chattanooga Times Free Press reports it will be the largest staff reduction at the federal utility in more than 20 years. Cuts also are planned in TVA's nuclear program and involuntary layoffs are expected later this year. (www.tricitie.com May 7, 2014)

Mississippi Power can't flip switch on Kemper Project until 2015

The Kemper Project clean coal power plant won't start up on time and Mississippi Power's parent firm, the Southern Company, will be on the hook for added construction costs. The opening of the oft-delayed experimental power plant in Mississippi was delayed until 2015, the Southern Company said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission released Tuesday. The company will take a \$380 million charge before taxes against its income in the first quarter of 2014. (<http://watchdog.org> April 30, 2014)

Indiana leads nation in coal ash ponds, raising toxin concerns

Even though Indiana has the most coal-ash ponds of any state in the nation and a troubling number of spills, state environmental regulators have done little to address the ongoing problems of how to dispose of coal waste. So contends a new report by the Hoosier Environmental Council, which is calling on the federal government to step in and do what Indiana so far has been reluctant to do: Come up with stringent standards on how to dispose of the wastes left over from burning coal. (www.indystar.com May 5, 2014)

Duke posts loss declining value of power plants

Duke Energy lost \$97 million in the first quarter after reducing the value of a fleet of coal-fired power plants in the Midwest that it is trying to sell. Duke announced in February that it would try to unload the power plants in the Midwest that sell power into wholesale markets, instead of directly to customers. Wholesale prices have been extremely volatile, but generally low in recent years, due to extremely low natural gas prices. (www.appeal-democrat.com May 7, 2014)

How and Why U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Are Falling

Greenhouse gas emissions in the United States fell to their lowest level in 17 years in 2012, according to a new report from the Environmental Protection Agency. Additional data from the U.S. government show why: the trend is largely the result of a rapid drop in coal-fired electricity, and a corresponding rise in electricity generated by cleaner fuels, especially natural gas. The picture is less encouraging globally. (www.technologyreview.com May 6, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	5/8/2014	5/1/2014	4/24/2014	4/17/2014	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.73	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.52
Ashland	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.71	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.64
Covington	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.81	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.72
Lexington	\$ 3.74	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.74	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.39
Louisville	\$ 3.74	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.74
Owensboro	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.49
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.99	\$ 4.01	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.03	\$ 3.92
Ashland	\$ 3.98	\$ 3.98	\$ 3.98	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.95
Covington	\$ 4.01	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.08	\$ 3.96
Lexington	\$ 4.03	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.07	\$ 4.08	\$ 3.94
Louisville	\$ 3.99	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.03	\$ 3.93
Owensboro	\$ 4.04	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.04	\$ 4.04	\$ 3.94

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	5/8/2014	5/1/2014	4/24/2014	4/14/2014	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	\$ 99.74	\$ 101.13	\$ 104.35	\$ 104.50	\$ 96.24
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 4.57	\$ 4.71	\$ 4.70	\$ 4.72	\$ 3.93

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		June 2014	July 2014	August 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	5/5/2014	\$ 99.48	\$ 98.73	\$ 97.82
	4/30/2014	\$ 99.74	\$ 99.11	\$ 98.28
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	5/5/2014	\$ 4.69	\$ 4.72	\$ 4.71
	4/30/2014	\$ 4.82	\$ 4.84	\$ 4.84
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	5/5/2014	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.07
	4/30/2014	\$ 1.09	\$ 1.09	\$ 1.10
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	5/5/2014	\$ 63.50	\$ 64.00	\$ 64.38
	4/30/2014	\$ 61.33	\$ 62.25	\$ 62.25

Source: CME Group

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