

Coal could have a future in Kentucky if pilot project succeeds, officials say

A pilot project to capture carbon dioxide from emissions at a coal-fired power plant in Mercer County could play a role in the future of coal, not just in Kentucky but elsewhere, officials said Monday. It's a key issue for Kentucky because the state gets more than 90 percent of its electricity by burning coal, which faces increasing challenges from federal efforts to protect air quality and tackle climate change. (www.kentucky.com July 21, 2014)

How One Proactive Kentucky Municipal Utility Lowers Overall Electricity Costs To Customers

In Kentucky on a recent business trip, I heard a number of practitioners refer to the Glasgow municipal utility, and its Superintendent – William “Billy” Ray – as one of the most innovative leaders in the energy space. Among other firsts, the Glasgow Electric Plant Board (EPB) pioneered the concept of publicly owned broadband. The EPB is also well known for its commitment to attacking costs. So I had to give Billy Ray a call and find out more about what the Glasgow EPB is working on. (www.forbes.com June 30, 2014)

Power providers ask Florida regulators to scale back energy-efficiency deals

Florida's biggest electric providers are asking state regulators this week to let them scale back energy-efficiency programs — such as rebates for installing solar panels and power-saving appliances — that they say have become expensive and benefit few customers. But conservationists argue that dramatically reducing energy-efficiency programs will only result in higher monthly bills for customers as the utilities eventually will need to build more natural-gas and nuclear power plants. (www.floridatoday.com July 21, 2014)

Kentucky electric cooperative receives loan guarantee

A north-central Kentucky electric cooperative has received a \$30 million loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Gov. Steve Beshear's office says Owen Electric Cooperative is one of eight rural electric cooperatives to receive such funding. Beshear says the loan guarantee will help Owen Electric build or improve 228 miles of line and make other system improvements. His office says more than \$3.4 million of the loan will be used for smart grid projects. (www.statejournal.com July 24, 2014)

Natural Gas Futures Slide to 7-Month Low on Mild Weather

Natural gas futures slipped in New York to the lowest price in more than seven months as meteorologists predicted mild weather, which would curtail demand from power plants and help narrow a stockpile deficit. Temperatures may be average or below normal in the eastern half of the U.S. through Aug. 4, according to Commodity Weather Group LLC. Injections of gas into storage have surpassed the five-year average for 13 consecutive weeks. Inventories were 26 percent below the five-year average in the week ended July 11, compared with 55 percent at the end of March. (www.bloomberg.com July 21, 2014)

Arch Coal idles mine complex in Va., Ky.

Arch Coal says it is idling the Cumberland River Coal Co. complex in Wise County, Va., and Letcher County, Ky. Officials said Monday that more than 210 full-time positions are being eliminated by the move. Arch Coal CEO John Eaves says the company is responding to market challenges for metallurgical coal used to make steel. Eaves said the company's strategy is to shift its portfolio toward higher-margin, lower-cost metallurgical coal operations. The mining complex had previously shuttered two contract mines during the second quarter of 2013. (www.kentucky.com July 21, 2014)

On energy efficiency, U.S. ranks 13th out of 16

Germany wins the “World Cup” for energy efficiency while the United States ranks 13th among 16 major economies — behind China, Canada and India, says an international scorecard Thursday. The U.S. has made efforts in recent years that include stricter building codes, appliance standards and vehicle miles-per-gallon but still fares only better than Russia, Brazil and Mexico, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficiency Economy, a non-profit research group. (www.usatoday.com July 17, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	7/24/2014	7/17/2014	7/10/2014	7/3/2014	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.67	\$ 3.66
Ashland	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.53
Covington	\$ 3.67	\$ 3.78	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.65
Lexington	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.46	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.73	\$ 3.61
Louisville	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.68
Owensboro	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.56	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.54
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.88
Ashland	\$ 3.74	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.85
Covington	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.83
Lexington	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.85
Louisville	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.82
Owensboro	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.89

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	7/21/2014	7/17/2014	7/10/2014	6/30/2014	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	\$ 105.34	\$ 100.56	\$ 104.19	\$ 106.07	\$ 105.41
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.97	\$ 4.16	\$ 4.36	\$ 3.71

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		August 2014	September 2014	October 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	7/23/2014	\$ 104.42	\$ 103.12	\$ 101.65
	7/16/2014	\$ 101.20	\$ 100.60	\$ 99.90
	7/9/2014	\$ 102.29	\$ 101.75	\$ 101.04
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	7/23/2014	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.78	\$ 3.79
	7/16/2014	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.12
	7/9/2014	\$ 4.17	\$ 4.17	\$ 4.17
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Behieu (OPIS)</i>	7/23/2014	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.07
	7/16/2014	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.06
	7/9/2014	\$ 1.03	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.05
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	7/23/2014	\$ 60.53	\$ 60.10	\$ 59.35
	7/16/2014	\$ 60.50	\$ 60.25	\$ 59.90
	7/9/2014	\$ 60.25	\$ 60.23	\$ 59.90

Source: CME Group



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