

# Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

*A snapshot of state and national energy issues*



## ***Center for Applied Energy Research Renewable Energy Laboratory: Lexington, KY***

The Center for Applied Energy Research at the University of Kentucky is on the leading edge of laboratory design, implementing multiple strategies never used at the university or other U.S. laboratories. ([www.hpbmagazine.org](http://www.hpbmagazine.org) Feb. 2014)

## ***Rain, Ice cause power outages throughout the Bluegrass Wednesday***

Rain and ice swept through the Bluegrass Tuesday night and Wednesday morning leaving several thousand throughout the State without power. In Lexington alone, over 8,00 people were reporting power outages as of Midnight. Over 1,500 of those were in the Squires Road/Richmond Road areas. ([www.wkyt.com](http://www.wkyt.com) Feb. 5, 2014)

## ***Rep. Jim Gooch Monitoring Kentucky's Propane Situation***

Citing concern for the propane supply in Western Kentucky and throughout the commonwealth, House Committee Natural Resources & Environment Chair Rep. Jim Gooch heard testimony last week to learn more. (<http://surfky.com> Feb. 3, 2014)

## ***House Republicans Add Pressure for Gas Exports***

Republican leaders on the House Energy and Commerce Committee are urging President Obama to speed up his administration's approval of natural-gas exports. But without a legislative plan to accomplish their goal—at least not yet—the question arises: Will their pressure make any difference? “We’d like to think the Energy Department can make major progress in the balance of the year,” said Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton at a briefing Tuesday announcing a new staff report on the economic and geopolitical benefits of exporting more natural gas. “And if not, we would look at a number of options to try to, quote, help them achieve that goal in the future.” ([www.nationaljournal.com](http://www.nationaljournal.com) Feb. 4, 2014)

## ***Eastern Kentucky sheds 2,232 more coal jobs in 2013, a 23 percent decline***

Coal production and jobs in Eastern Kentucky continued to fall in the final three months of 2013, leaving regional employment in the industry at an historic low. Coal mines and preparation plants in the state's beleaguered eastern coalfield laid off 2,232 employees in 2013, leaving an average of only 7,332 people with jobs from October through December, according to a report released Tuesday by the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet. ([www.kentucky.com](http://www.kentucky.com) Feb. 4, 2014)

## ***E.P.A. Staff Struggling to Create Pollution Rule***

In marathon meetings and tense all-day drafting sessions, dozens of lawyers, economists and engineers at the Environmental Protection Agency are struggling to create what is certain to be a divisive but potentially historic centerpiece of President Obama's climate change legacy. If the authors succeed in writing a lawsuit-proof regulation that is effective in cutting carbon emissions from America's 1,500 power plants — the largest source of the nation's greenhouse gas pollution — the result could be the most significant action taken by the United States to curb climate change. ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) Feb. 5, 2014)

## ***PSC Approves Second Power Contract for Century Aluminum***

The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) today approved agreements that allow the Century Aluminum of Kentucky smelter in Sebree to be supplied with electric power purchased on the open market by Kenergy Corp. rather than power generated by Big Rivers Electric Corp. Century has said that approval of the agreements is necessary for the continued operation of the smelter. (<http://surfky.com> Jan. 30, 2014)

## ***Senators Debate Lifting Decades Old Ky. Nuclear Moratorium***

A Senate bill aimed at exploring the feasibility of nuclear power in the Bluegrass sparked debate in committee Wednesday. For thirty years, the General Assembly has had a moratorium on any nuclear plant construction without a plan for permanent waste disposal. The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy has now passed a bill that would lift the moratorium and, proponents argue, allow energy companies to investigate the potential benefits of nuclear power. ([www.wuky.org](http://www.wuky.org) Jan. 29, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	2/6/2014	1/30/2014	1/23/2014	1/16/2014	Year Ago
<b>Gasoline (State avg.)</b>	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.28	\$ 3.51
Ashland	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.32	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.26	\$ 3.60
Covington	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.26	\$ 3.34	\$ 3.33	\$ 3.64
Lexington	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.21	\$ 3.33	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.50
Louisville	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.22	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.57
Owensboro	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.18	\$ 3.19	\$ 3.19	\$ 3.43
<b>Diesel (State avg.)</b>	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.98
Ashland	\$ 3.97	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.91	\$ 4.03
Covington	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.83	\$ 4.00
Lexington	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.81	\$ 3.81	\$ 4.00
Louisville	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.81	\$ 3.81	\$ 3.99
Owensboro	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.86	\$ 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,

Product	2/3/2014	1/27/2014	1/20/2014	1/13/2014	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.54	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.63
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.79	\$ 2.59	\$ 2.54	\$ 2.19

Spot Prices	2/5/2014	1/29/2014	1/22/2014	1/15/2014	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 96.44	\$ 95.82	\$ 97.54	\$ 94.05	\$ 96.21
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 7.45	\$ 5.21	\$ 4.88	\$ 4.46	\$ 3.38

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	2/5/2014	\$ 97.38	\$ 96.76	\$ 96.02
	1/29/2014	\$ 97.36	\$ 96.88	\$ 96.19
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	2/5/2014	\$ 5.03	\$ 4.55	\$ 4.49
	1/29/2014	\$ 5.47	\$ 4.56	\$ 4.45
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	2/5/2014	\$ 1.28	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.09
	1/29/2014	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.12
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	2/5/2014	\$ 56.30	\$ 56.83	\$ 56.98
	1/29/2014	\$ 59.50	\$ 59.03	\$ 58.85

Source: CME Group

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