

### ***Duke Energy Seeks Midwest Power Plant Sale After Rate Rejection***

Duke Energy Corp. (DUK), the largest U.S. utility owner, is seeking to sell its interest in 13 power plants in the nation's Midwest after Ohio regulators denied its request to raise rates. Citigroup Inc. and Morgan Stanley are advising Duke on the sale of stakes in the coal, oil and natural gas facilities in Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania that together have a capacity of 6,600 megawatts, Duke said in a statement today. The company will record a pretax charge of \$1 billion to \$2 billion in the first quarter from the sale, which it expects will take 12 to 18 months. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) Feb. 17, 2014)

### ***Study Finds Methane Leaks Negate Benefits of Natural Gas as a Fuel for Vehicles***

The sign is ubiquitous on city buses around the country: "This bus runs on clean burning natural gas." But a surprising new report, to be published Friday in the journal *Science*, concludes that switching buses and trucks from traditional diesel fuel to natural gas could actually harm the planet's climate. Although burning natural gas as a transportation fuel produces 30 percent less planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions than burning diesel, the drilling and production of natural gas can lead to leaks of methane, a greenhouse gas 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide. ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) Feb. 13, 2014)

### ***Flurry of Coal Power Plant Shutdowns Expected by 2016***

A flurry of coal-fired power plants — major sources of climate change-fueling carbon dioxide emissions — could be closed by 2016, according to U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts. New emissions regulations and low natural gas prices, partly because of the fracking boom throughout the U.S., are leading utilities to shut down coal-fired power plants and open new ones that burn natural gas. With new Environmental Protection Agency emissions standards limiting mercury, acid gases and toxic metals from coal-fired power plants taking effect in 2015, there is even more impetus for utilities to retire older coal plants, according to the EIA. ([www.climatecentral.org](http://www.climatecentral.org) Feb. 19, 2014)

### ***Rockport Coal Gasification Plan Still Alive***

The proposal to build a coal gasification power plant in Rockport may not be dead yet. Indiana Gasification LLC, which would convert coal to natural gas in Rockport, received confirmation Jan. 15 that the Indiana Finance Authority "remains willing" to set up a contract to buy gas from the plant. There are still many legal hoops to jump through before things move forward. The state, under the 30-year agreement, would buy gas the plant produces and resell it on the open market. ([www.wibqfm.com](http://www.wibqfm.com) Feb. 18, 2014)

### ***Officials: Coal slurry spill blackens 6 miles of West Virginia creek***

Inspectors are looking into the cause of a coal slurry spill in West Virginia's eastern Kanawha County after it blackened six miles of a creek, officials with the state Department of Environmental Protection said Tuesday. More than 100,000 gallons of the coal slurry is believed to have flowed into Fields Creek, a tributary of the Kanawha River, officials said. Inspectors are testing the water to determine exactly how much leaked into the creek, the officials said. The spill at Patriot Coal was caused when a valve inside a slurry line malfunctioned, the state environmental protection officials said. ([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) Feb. 12, 2014)

### ***Obama orders higher fuel standards for larger U.S. trucks***

President Barack Obama on Tuesday directed federal agencies to develop higher fuel standards for medium-sized and heavy trucks, another step in his efforts to slash oil consumption and carbon emissions blamed for global warming. Obama made the announcement in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, about 20 miles from Washington, at a distribution center for Safeway grocery stores, next to a trucking rig that had been redesigned to increase fuel economy. "Everybody who says you can't grow the economy while bringing down pollution, it's turned out they've been wrong," Obama said. (<http://in.reuters.com> Feb. 19, 2014)

### ***Administration plans loan 'kick-start' for nuclear plants***

Clearing a key hurdle to the construction of the nation's first new nuclear power plants in some three decades. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz confirmed Wednesday the Obama administration will make available billions of dollars in federal loan guarantees to support private construction efforts.

### ***Customers can take action to reduce heating bills, utilities in Kentucky say***

Even with the extreme weather the region has seen this winter, some Kentucky Utilities customers are sure their high electric bills must be wrong. They're not. KU spokesman Cliff Feltham said monthly consumption of electricity in January was the most in company history for any winter and the third-highest overall, behind months in the summers of 2007 and 2010. After customers open those unusually high bills, they need to take a breath and take some action, utility officials say. ([www.kentucky.com](http://www.kentucky.com) Feb. 17, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	2/20/2014	2/13/2014	2/6/2014	1/30/2014	Year Ago
<b>Gasoline (State avg.)</b>	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.32	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.79
Ashland	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.43	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.32	\$ 3.87
Covington	\$ 3.39	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.26	\$ 3.83
Lexington	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.21	\$ 3.79
Louisville	\$ 3.33	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.22	\$ 3.86
Owensboro	\$ 3.38	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.18	\$ 3.71
<b>Diesel (State avg.)</b>	\$ 4.08	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.85	\$ 4.12
Ashland	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.07	\$ 3.97	\$ 3.94	\$ 4.21
Covington	\$ 4.21	\$ 4.04	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.83	\$ 4.12
Lexington	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.03	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.86	\$ 4.13
Louisville	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.84	\$ 4.10
Owensboro	\$ 4.02	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.86	\$ 4.15

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	2/17/2014	2/10/2014	2/3/2014	1/27/2014	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 3.79	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.54	\$ 3.78
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.79	\$ 2.20

Spot Prices	2/19/2014	2/12/2014	2/5/2014	1/29/2014	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 103.46	\$ 100.29	\$ 96.44	\$ 95.82	\$ 92.79
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 5.98	\$ 6.28	\$ 7.45	\$ 5.21	\$ 3.34

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	2/19/2014	\$ 103.31	\$ 102.84	\$ 101.81
	2/12/2014	\$ 100.37	\$ 99.92	\$ 99.17
	2/5/2014	\$ 97.38	\$ 96.76	\$ 96.02
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	2/19/2014	\$ 6.15	\$ 4.95	\$ 4.75
	2/12/2014	\$ 4.82	\$ 4.55	\$ 4.53
	2/5/2014	\$ 5.03	\$ 4.55	\$ 4.49
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	2/19/2014	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.09
	2/12/2014	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.05
	2/5/2014	\$ 1.28	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.09
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	2/19/2014	\$ 59.95	\$ 60.25	\$ 60.50
	2/12/2014	\$ 57.40	\$ 57.90	\$ 58.03
	2/5/2014	\$ 56.30	\$ 56.83	\$ 56.98

Source: CME Group

The Department for Energy Development and Independence does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or disability and provides, on request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. To request materials in an alternative format, call the Department for Energy Development and Independence at (800) 282-0868. Persons with hearing and speech impairments can contact the agency by using the Kentucky Relay Service, a toll-free telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD). For voice to TDD, call (800) 648-6057. For TDD to voice, call (800) 648-6056.

