

Kentucky Public Service Commission to hold public meetings for KU and LG&E customers

The Kentucky Public Service Commission will hold public meetings in Louisville and Lexington to present information and receive comments on the requests for rate increases by the Kentucky Utilities Co. and the Louisville Gas & Electric Co. “These meetings will allow the public to learn about the PSC’s ratemaking process and to present their views directly to members of the commission as it prepares to consider whether the proposed new rates are fair, just and reasonable,” PSC Chairman David Armstrong said. (www.kyforward.com March 11, 2015)

Miss. Power starts gasifier at Kemper plant

Mississippi Power Co. announced Monday that it had fired up gasifiers at its Kemper County power plant for the first time. It’s another step by the unit of the Atlanta-based Southern Co. toward moving the \$6.2 billion plant to being fully operational by the end of June 2016. The gasifier is meant to take soft lignite coal and turn it into a gas that will be burned, like natural gas, to make electricity. The company said that it plans to start using lignite in the gasifier later this year. (www.clarionledger.com March 10, 2015)

TVA’s plan for future: Less coal, more gas and efficiency

The just-filed Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the biggest U.S. public utility, forecasts the building of no new coal or nuclear power plants for the next 20 years. (www.utilitydive.com March 10, 2015)

2015 US grid to see more wind and natural gas, retirement of coal plants

The US Energy Information Agency released figures on the changes expected for the electric grid in the country during 2015. Based on expected plant openings, the Agency expects to see a significant decline in coal power over the course of the year, coupled with a large gain in wind and natural gas, and the first new nuclear capacity added to the grid in decades. The growth in renewables is notably an underestimate, as it only includes utility-scale projects and none of the small-scale and residential installations. (http://arstechnica.com March 11, 2015)

Kentucky Releases Hour-Long Documentary About Electricity, Energy Transition

Kentucky’s Energy and Environment Cabinet has released an hour-long documentary about the commonwealth’s changing energy landscape, and the challenges posed by diversifying the state’s energy portfolio and keeping electricity rates competitive as Kentucky utilities retire coal-fired power plants. Called “Made in Kentucky,” the film looks at Kentucky’s manufacturing sector, thriving partly because of the state’s low electricity rates. (http://wfpf.org March 9, 2015)

Ky. regulators approve plan to move coal ash

East Kentucky Power Cooperative won approval Friday from state utility regulators to move ahead with its plans to transfer 560,000 tons of coal ash to a new landfill in central Kentucky. Moving the mountains of ash — material left over when coal is burned at power plants to produce electricity — will be time consuming with a fleet of trucks hauling it on some roads in Clark County. (www.courier-journal.com March 7, 2015)

LG&E to cap Cane Run coal ash

With natural gas replacing coal at its Cane Run plant as early as May, LG&E is working to shut down its controversial coal-burning waste handling equipment, dry out and cap an ash pond and close an ash dump. But before it can finish the job, the power company needs the approval of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management, which has scheduled a public meeting and hearing in Louisville on March 17. (www.courier-journal.com March 5, 2015)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	3/12/2015	3/4/2015	2/26/2015	2/19/2015	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 2.45	\$ 2.34	\$ 2.34	\$ 2.27	\$ 3.49
Ashland	\$ 2.32	\$ 2.37	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.28	\$ 3.52
Covington	\$ 2.41	\$ 2.47	\$ 2.41	\$ 2.42	\$ 3.59
Lexington	\$ 2.34	\$ 2.32	\$ 2.22	\$ 2.32	\$ 3.40
Louisville	\$ 2.38	\$ 2.39	\$ 2.37	\$ 2.30	\$ 3.46
Owensboro	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.28	\$ 2.18	\$ 2.18	\$ 3.43
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 2.92	\$ 2.90	\$ 2.89	\$ 2.85	\$ 4.01
Ashland	\$ 2.94	\$ 2.95	\$ 2.95	\$ 2.95	\$ 4.13
Covington	\$ 2.91	\$ 2.92	\$ 2.89	\$ 2.89	\$ 4.21
Lexington	\$ 2.95	\$ 2.95	\$ 2.91	\$ 2.92	\$ 4.13
Louisville	\$ 2.90	\$ 2.92	\$ 2.90	\$ 2.89	\$ 4.10
Owensboro	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.78	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.67	\$ 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	3/9/2015	3/2/2015	2/23/2015	2/16/2015	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 2.67	\$ 2.68	\$ 2.62	\$ 2.62	\$ 3.75
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 2.12	\$ 2.14	\$ 2.15	\$ 2.13	\$ 3.67

http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_wfr_dcus_SKY_w.htm

Spot Prices	3/12/2015	3/4/2015	2/24/2015	2/18/2015	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 49.95	\$ 49.59	\$ 49.56	\$ 53.56	\$ 100.36
MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 2.79	\$ 3.22	\$ 3.22	\$ 2.75	\$ 4.80
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Central Appalachia</i>	\$ 53.06	\$ 53.06	\$ 53.06	\$ 53.06	\$ 62.18
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Illinois Basin</i>	\$ 40.32	\$ 40.32	\$ 40.32	\$ 45.32	\$ 46.40

Sources: <https://www.quandl.com/#/c/markets/coal> http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_spt_s1_d.htm http://ycharts.com/indicators/natural_gas_spot_price

Futures		April 2015	May 2015	June 2015
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	3/11/2015	\$ 48.17	\$ 50.02	\$ 51.59
	3/4/2015	\$ 50.52	\$ 52.50	\$ 54.07
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3/11/2015	\$ 2.82	\$ 2.85	\$ 2.89
	3/4/2015	\$ 2.71	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.80
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	3/11/2015	\$ 0.54	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.55
	3/4/2015	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.62

Source: CME Group

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