

Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Woodford County Public Schools takes honors in national Battle of the Buildings competition

The Woodford County Public Schools finished in the top 10 in the national U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star "Battle of the Buildings Competition: Team Challenge for 2014." The Woodford County Public School team ranked eighth, competing against 5,500 individual buildings from across the U.S., Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. The school system was recognized for reducing energy consumption by 10.2 percent over the previous 12 months. The district's Simmons Elementary team led the way, reducing energy consumption by 17.2 percent. (www.kyforward.com May 14, 2015)

Capito bill would void carbon rule, set new EPA requirements

Senate Republicans on Wednesday proposed to kill the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan and erect a series of strict roadblocks to future regulation of carbon emissions from power plants. Opponents quickly condemned the bill as "a big polluters' wish list" that would "eviscerate the Clean Air Act." The bill, introduced by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., would revise the Clean Air Act to prevent the agency from using section 111(d) of the law to regulate carbon emissions from existing power plants. The plants are already regulated for toxic emissions under Section 112. (<http://energyguardian.net> May 13, 2015)

Supreme Court to review U.S. electricity market efficiency rule

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed on Monday to review the legality of an Obama administration regulation aimed at encouraging efficiency in the electricity market by having electrical grid operators pay users to reduce consumption at peak times. The court said it will hear an appeal filed by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission seeking to reverse a May 2014 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that threw out the rule. The regulation, aimed at improving grid reliability and encouraging clean energy, remains in effect as the litigation continues. (www.reuters.com May 4, 2015)

Conway: Anti-competitive practices lead to higher gas prices

A joint venture's plans for an ethane cracker plant in West Virginia has been paused. Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway sued Marathon Petroleum Co. on Tuesday, claiming its control of the state's wholesale gasoline market has "been allowed to run rampant" and results in higher prices at the pump. The federal lawsuit alleges the company violated federal and state antitrust laws. The suit seeks to break Marathon's monopolistic grip to allow greater competition in the market to benefit consumers, Conway said at a press conference. (www.mysanantonio.com May 12, 2015)

Murkowski: Comprehensive Energy Reform in June

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) lifted the curtain on her comprehensive energy effort on Thursday, detailing the bill's broad contours while setting a schedule for the coming month. Murkowski, who chairs the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources committee, told reporters in the Capitol Thursday that she's aiming to have a marked-up bill with four titles – efficiency, infrastructure, supply, and government accountability and reform – ready by the end of June. The committee already held a hearing on energy efficiency, the first title, last week. (<http://morningconsult.com> May 7, 2015)

Mine lays off 64 employees

Numerous coal miners woke up Friday to find out that they were without a job after a layoff at a Harlan County mine. Clover Lick No. 3 in Cumberland laid off 64 miners. Alpha Natural Resources owns the mine. It is operated by Jarisa Incorporated. The mine and Jarisa Incorporated could not be reached for comment. The organization released a statement to WYMT stating the layoff was due to the downturn of the economy. "It was beyond control and very regrettable," the statement said. (www.harlandaily.com May 8, 2015)

Kentucky Adopts Innovative PACE Clean Energy Financing Tool

In a surprising show of bi-partisanship, lawmakers in one of the nation's more conservative states came together last month to approve a major victory for clean energy. Kentucky became the latest state in the country to approve PACE (Property-Assessed Clean Energy), an innovative financing tool that allows cities to use their property taxes as a way to finance clean energy upgrades to buildings. PACE's unique structure and benefits have helped spur the proliferation of PACE programs around the county. As a result, the market for PACE financing is estimated to rise above \$1 billion this year. (www.environmentguru.com May 7, 2015)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

| Product | 5/14/2015 | 5/7/2015 | 4/30/2015 | 4/23/2015 | Year Ago |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Gasoline (State avg.) | \$ 2.68 | \$ 2.65 | \$ 2.58 | \$ 2.49 | \$ 3.64 |
| Ashland | \$ 2.61 | \$ 2.67 | \$ 2.57 | \$ 2.42 | \$ 3.62 |
| Covington | \$ 2.67 | \$ 2.67 | \$ 2.56 | \$ 2.53 | \$ 3.81 |
| Lexington | \$ 2.66 | \$ 2.52 | \$ 2.57 | \$ 2.45 | \$ 3.67 |
| Louisville | \$ 2.77 | \$ 2.78 | \$ 2.62 | \$ 2.61 | \$ 3.82 |
| Owensboro | \$ 2.42 | \$ 2.51 | \$ 2.46 | \$ 2.31 | \$ 3.58 |
| Diesel (State avg.) | \$ 2.86 | \$ 2.84 | \$ 2.81 | \$ 2.79 | \$ 3.94 |
| Ashland | \$ 2.75 | \$ 2.74 | \$ 2.72 | \$ 2.71 | \$ 3.97 |
| Covington | \$ 2.78 | \$ 2.77 | \$ 2.77 | \$ 2.79 | \$ 3.99 |
| Lexington | \$ 2.78 | \$ 2.77 | \$ 2.76 | \$ 2.78 | \$ 4.00 |
| Louisville | \$ 2.74 | \$ 2.72 | \$ 2.71 | \$ 2.72 | \$ 3.97 |
| Owensboro | \$ 2.70 | \$ 2.70 | \$ 2.70 | \$ 2.69 | \$ 4.03 |

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 | 5/11/2015 | 5/7/2015 | 4/29/2015 | 4/20/2015 | Year Ago |
|---|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i> | \$ 59.23 | \$ 58.92 | \$ 55.56 | \$ 55.58 | \$ 102.63 |
| MMBtu <i>Henry-Hub</i> | \$ 2.85 | \$ 2.72 | \$ 2.50 | \$ 2.59 | \$ 4.59 |
| Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Central Appalachia</i> | \$ 52.85 | \$ 52.85 | \$ 52.88 | \$ 52.88 | \$ 67.27 |
| Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Illinois Basin</i> | \$ 40.45 | \$ 40.45 | \$ 40.77 | \$ 40.77 | \$ 45.15 |

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 | | June 2015 | July 2015 | August 2015 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i> | 5/13/2015 | \$ 60.50 | \$ 61.49 | \$ 61.99 |
| | 5/6/2015 | \$ 60.93 | \$ 62.00 | \$ 62.56 |
| | 4/29/2015 | \$ 58.58 | \$ 59.86 | \$ 60.52 |
| Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i> | 5/13/2015 | \$ 2.94 | \$ 2.98 | \$ 3.01 |
| | 5/6/2015 | \$ 2.78 | \$ 2.83 | \$ 2.85 |
| | 4/29/2015 | \$ 2.61 | \$ 2.66 | \$ 2.68 |
| Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i> | 5/13/2015 | \$ 0.51 | \$ 0.52 | \$ 0.53 |
| | 5/6/2015 | \$ 0.52 | \$ 0.52 | \$ 0.53 |
| | 4/29/2015 | \$ 0.56 | \$ 0.57 | \$ 0.57 |

Source: CME Group

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