

Biodiesel supporters to press EPA on Renewable Fuel Standard

Two dozen biodiesel representatives are slated to testify at an EPA hearing on the agency's latest proposal establishing volumes under the Renewable Fuel Standard. The industry leaders, coming from states across the country, planned to thank the EPA for increasing volumes in the latest proposal while calling for further growth in the final rule set to be released in November. (www.hpj.com June 25, 2015)

Boyle P&Z plans pre-emptive ordinance to fight pipeline

Although it is still unclear whether the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will approve Kinder Morgan's plans to repurpose a Tennessee Gas Pipeline to carry natural gas liquids, Danville-Boyle County Planning and Zoning Commission gave the green light Wednesday for Attorney Bruce Smith to begin drafting an ordinance that would fight the pipeline. (www.centrankynews.com July 2, 2015)

Seismologists monitor northeastern Kentucky as companies show interest in fracking Rogersville shale

If the continued interest in exploring for oil far below the surface of northeastern Kentucky ever results in a production boom, researchers will be ready to gauge the effect on earthquakes. Seismologists with the Kentucky Geological Survey at the University of Kentucky are installing a network of highly sensitive seismic monitoring stations in the area this summer. (<http://bakken.com> June 29, 2015)

Supreme Court's ruling comes too late for coal

President Barack Obama's opponents won a Supreme Court skirmish in the "war on coal" Monday, but the ruling blocking his mercury pollution rule won't do anything to reverse coal's waning role in the nation's power supply. (www.politico.com June 29, 2015)

Settlement approved for LG&E, KU rate increase

The Kentucky Public Service Commission has approved a settlement that reduces the base rate increases sought by Louisville Gas & Electric Co. and Kentucky Utilities Co. Under the terms of the unanimous settlement agreement, LG&E's electric customers will see virtually no change in base rates, according to a news release from the PSC. (www.bizjournals.com June 30, 2015)

New wave of terror attacks shows energy infrastructure at risk

A suspected Islamic State-inspired attack on a gas factory in France on Friday heightens concerns that U.S. energy infrastructure may be targeted. U.S. company Air Products, which has major operations in the Washington-Baltimore area as well as around the world, was attacked by terrorists. (www.washingtonexaminer.com June 27, 2015)

U.S. refinery capacity reaches 18 million barrels per day

U.S. operable atmospheric crude distillation (CDU) capacity increased by 0.2% in 2014, reaching 18.0 million barrels per calendar day (b/d) according to EIA's recently released annual Refinery Capacity Report (Figure 1). (www.cattlenetwork.com June 25, 2015)

Before being dismantled, Indiana's efficiency program was effective

"Bittersweet" is how Citizens Action Coalition Executive Director Kerwin Olson described a recent performance report for Energizing Indiana, an energy efficiency program that was canceled during its third year of existence, by state legislation hastily passed in spring 2014. (<http://midwestenergynews.com> June 26, 2015)

Energy efficiency can be incredibly valuable — but we do need to measure it properly

Earlier this week, I wrote about a new paper by three economists affiliated with the E2e Project suggesting that a federal program to improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes in Michigan wasn't nearly as cost-effective as we thought. (www.vox.com June 26, 2015)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	7/2/2015	6/25/2015	6/18/2015	6/11/2015	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 2.77	\$ 2.78	\$ 2.80	\$ 2.76	\$ 3.67
Ashland	\$ 2.74	\$ 2.77	\$ 2.83	\$ 2.79	\$ 3.76
Covington	\$ 2.88	\$ 2.92	\$ 2.95	\$ 2.89	\$ 3.93
Lexington	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.75	\$ 3.75
Louisville	\$ 2.84	\$ 2.83	\$ 2.93	\$ 2.82	\$ 3.86
Owensboro	\$ 2.68	\$ 2.74	\$ 2.77	\$ 2.58	\$ 3.64
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 2.84	\$ 2.85	\$ 2.87	\$ 2.87	\$ 3.90
Ashland	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.76	\$ 2.78	\$ 2.80	\$ 3.89
Covington	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.76	\$ 2.78	\$ 2.80	\$ 3.90
Lexington	\$ 2.76	\$ 2.78	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.79	\$ 3.91
Louisville	\$ 2.72	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.76	\$ 3.87
Owensboro	\$ 2.71	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.72	\$ 3.92

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	6/30/2015	6/22/2015	6/17/2015	6/8/2015	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 58.34	\$ 60.01	\$ 59.53	\$ 58.15	\$ 105.18
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 2.77	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.89	\$ 2.60	\$ 4.39
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Central Appalachia</i>	\$ 53.75	\$ 52.75	\$ 41.92	\$ 52.75	\$ 60.65
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Illinois Basin</i>	\$ 40.45	\$ 40.45	\$ 40.45	\$ 40.45	\$ 45.45

Sources: <http://www.infomine.com/investment/metal-prices/coal/1-year> http://ycharts.com/indicators/natural_gas_spot_price <https://www.quandl.com/data/DOE/COAL-US-Coal-Prices-by-Region> <http://markets.ft.com/research/Markets/>

Futures		August 2015	September 2015	October 2015
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	7/1/2015	\$ 56.96	\$ 57.37	\$ 57.70
	6/24/2015	\$ 60.27	\$ 60.58	\$ 60.84
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	7/1/2015	\$ 2.78	\$ 2.80	\$ 2.83
	6/24/2015	\$ 2.78	\$ 2.80	\$ 2.83
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	7/1/2015	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.48
	6/24/2015	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.49

Source: CME Group



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