

Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues



Coal miner Walter Energy files for bankruptcy

Walter Energy Inc filed for bankruptcy protection on Wednesday, becoming the latest coal miner to do so as they struggle with a steep fall in prices since 2011. The company said only its U.S. units have filed for a prepackaged Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, and that operations in Canada and the UK are not included in the filings. (www.reuters.com July 15, 2015)

Marathon gains natural-gas assets in multibillion-dollar deal

An Ohio energy giant is getting even larger. Marathon Petroleum Corp. of Findlay, acting through its affiliate MPLX, announced an agreement this morning to buy MarkWest Energy Partners, the largest owner of natural-gas processing plants in the Utica and Marcellus shale formations. (www.dispatch.com July 14, 2015)

Refiners Race to Make Cheap Oil Into Gasoline

Drill, baby, drill? More like refine, baby, refine. As the shale oil boom faces its first slowdown, America's refiners are running harder than ever to keep up with drivers. Refineries in the U.S. used 16.8 million barrels of oil a day last week, the most in government data going back to 1982. (www.bloomberg.com July 15, 2015)

U.S. Gasoline Cheapest Since Mid-May After Rout at Pumps

Drivers paid an average \$2.8328 a gallon for regular gasoline at U.S. pumps over the past two weeks, the lowest since May 15, according to Lundberg Survey Inc. Retail prices slid 1.66 cents in the period through July 10 and are down 3.34 cents since June 12. (www.bloomberg.com July 12, 2015)

Missouri PSC votes down Clean Line application

There were no surprises when the Missouri Public Service Commission convened to decide the local fate of the Grain Belt in Express. As expected, the commission voted 3-2 to decline Clean Line Energy's application for public utility status for the proposed Grain Belt Express. (www.clintoncountyleader.com July 9, 2015)

Nothing less will do: Tech companies want 100 percent renewables

Facebook is working to keep up with its counterparts, Google and Apple, by investing in large amounts of renewable energy on their properties. These days, if you are running your data centers off anything less than 100 percent renewable energy, you are not keeping up with the industry. Facebook's newest announcement has to do with their planned Fort Worth data center. (www.fierceenergy.com July 10, 2015)

Federal court slams ethanol and EPA in one ruling

A federal appeals court slammed the ethanol industry on Tuesday for suing the Environmental Protection Agency, and then slammed the EPA's defense even though the agency won the case. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out a lawsuit brought against the EPA a year ago for not including 30 percent ethanol fuel blends (E30) as a test fuel in the agency's landmark Tier 3 clean fuel and vehicle rules. (www.washingtonexaminer.com July 14, 2015)

2015's Most & Least Energy-Expensive States

Get ready to crank up those air conditioners. July tends to be the hottest month of the year, and the heat will likely burn a hole through your wallet. In fact, about 7.3 percent of the average consumer's total annual income goes to energy costs. So if you're planning to relocate this summer, perhaps to start a new job, you may want to consider the disparity in energy costs among the candidate states on your short list. (<http://wallethub.com> July 2015)

560,000 tons of coal ash to be hauled across 27 miles of highway in Clark County

East Kentucky Power Cooperative plans to move 560,000 tons of coal ash across Clark County, including part of Interstate 64, beginning in August. Dump trucks from The Allen Co. will haul the material 27 miles over public roads, including Ford Road, Ky. 627, the Winchester bypass, Interstate 64 and Ky. 89. The trucks won't go through downtown Winchester. (www.kentucky.com July 12, 2015)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	7/15/2015	7/10/2015	7/2/2015	6/25/2015	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 2.78	\$ 2.76	\$ 2.77	\$ 2.78	\$ 3.61
Ashland	\$ 2.71	\$ 2.72	\$ 2.74	\$ 2.77	\$ 3.62
Covington	\$ 2.94	\$ 2.85	\$ 2.88	\$ 2.92	\$ 3.81
Lexington	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.58	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.75	\$ 3.51
Louisville	\$ 2.85	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.84	\$ 2.83	\$ 3.69
Owensboro	\$ 2.56	\$ 2.60	\$ 2.68	\$ 2.74	\$ 3.58
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 2.82	\$ 2.83	\$ 2.84	\$ 2.85	\$ 3.88
Ashland	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.76	\$ 3.83
Covington	\$ 2.74	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.76	\$ 3.86
Lexington	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.76	\$ 2.78	\$ 3.87
Louisville	\$ 2.69	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.72	\$ 2.73	\$ 3.86
Owensboro	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.71	\$ 2.73	\$ 3.89

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	7/13/2015	7/6/2015	6/30/2015	6/22/2015	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 52.19	\$ 52.48	\$ 58.34	\$ 60.01	\$ 100.56
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 2.88	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.77	\$ 2.79	\$ 4.13
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Central Appalachia</i>	\$ 54.90	\$ 54.80	\$ 53.75	\$ 52.75	\$ 59.15
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Illinois Basin</i>	\$ 34.35	\$ 40.85	\$ 40.45	\$ 40.45	\$ 44.50

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>	7/14/2015	\$ 53.04	\$ 53.48	\$ 53.88
	7/9/2015	\$ 52.78	\$ 53.23	\$ 53.60
	7/1/2015	\$ 56.96	\$ 57.37	\$ 57.70
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	7/14/2015	\$ 2.84	\$ 2.84	\$ 2.87
	7/9/2015	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.74	\$ 2.77
	7/1/2015	\$ 2.78	\$ 2.80	\$ 2.83
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	7/14/2015	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.46
	7/9/2015	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.47
	7/1/2015	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.48

Source: CME Group



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