

Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Group of Ky. coal companies files for bankruptcy amid mounting MSHA safety fines

Six coal mining companies of eastern Kentucky coal operator Benjamin Bennett and his family filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection, according to U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky court documents filed Nov. 22. Manalapan Mining Co. Inc., Left Fork Mining Co. Inc., Cloverfork Mining & Excavating Inc., Cumberland River Energies LLC, B & S Trucking Corp. and Bennett Resources LLC all filed to liquidate in bankruptcy court. (www.snl.com Nov. 25, 2013)

GE wants to build laser enrichment facility at Paducah plant

General Electric's nuclear division is negotiating with the Department of Energy on a proposal to replace the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant's aging uranium enrichment facility with a new one. GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy wants to build a laser enrichment facility that would use depleted uranium kept at the plant. The Energy Department also says it has picked the company to begin negotiating the sale of the uranium inventory. (www.wdrb.com Nov. 27, 2013)

Kentucky seeks to preserve role for coal in state's energy future

Weatherizing homes and using more renewable energy could be part of Kentucky's program to lower carbon-dioxide pollution, but the model the state favors also would preserve a role for coal in electricity production. That's an important consideration because Kentucky gets more than 90 percent of its electricity from power plants that burn coal. (www.kentucky.com Nov. 30, 2013)

Natural gas price decreases for Columbia Gas customers

Effective Nov. 26, Columbia Gas of Kentucky's gas supply cost dropped 2.4 percent. Columbia Gas has received approval from the Kentucky Public Service Commission for its most recent gas cost adjustment (GCA). The new gas supply cost will remain in effect until the next scheduled GCA in March. Columbia Gas typically adjusts its prices quarterly to reflect current market conditions. Natural gas distribution companies do not earn a profit on their gas commodity costs and Columbia Gas of Kentucky passes the cost along to customers without markup. (www.lanereport.com Nov. 27, 2013)

Vote on divisive Ohio energy bill delayed again

A proposal to adjust Ohio's renewable energy and efficiency mandates stalled for a second time on Wednesday amid opposition from environmental and consumer interests and some majority Republican lawmakers. Senate Public Utilities Chairman Bill Seitz, who sponsored the measure, cancelled a scheduled committee vote Wednesday, signaling an uncertain fate for the sweeping bill. (www.kentucky.com Dec. 4, 2013)

KY Power files to withdraw rate case in connection to power plant transfer

Officials with Kentucky Power want the state's Public Service Commission to withdraw a base rate case filed by the utility last year. Kentucky Power officials filed the case in June 2012 to recover costs associated with buying half the Mitchell power plant in West Virginia. The company still plans to shut down one of the coal-fired units at the Big Sandy plant in Lawrence County in 2015. (www.wkyt.com Nov. 25, 2013)

Coal loses more ground to natural gas

As an economic summit in Eastern Kentucky approaches, two new reports illustrate the continued downward slide of coal in the state and across the southeastern United States. In Friday's Today in Energy briefing, the U.S. Energy Information Agency said the nation's biggest shift from coal to natural gas for electricity generation was occurring in the Southeast. (www.courier-journal.com Nov. 24, 2013)

Big Rivers Rate Hike - Some Say Too Big

More than 100,000 electric customers across western Kentucky face significant spikes in their energy bills if Big Rivers Electric gets its way. Big Rivers is seeking a \$70.4 million increase from the Public Service Commission. The proposed rate hike would increase the average residential bill \$25 to \$30 a month. (www.publicnewsservice.org Dec. 4, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	12/5/2013	11/21/2013	11/14/2013	11/7/2013	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.27	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.22	\$ 3.37
Ashland	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.21	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.36
Covington	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.26	\$ 3.28	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.48
Lexington	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.32	\$ 3.22	\$ 3.36
Louisville	\$ 3.28	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.24	\$ 3.19	\$ 3.44
Owensboro	\$ 3.21	\$ 3.26	\$ 3.12	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.26
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.89	\$ 4.14
Ashland	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.93	\$ 4.11
Covington	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.91	\$ 4.22
Lexington	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.89	\$ 4.19
Louisville	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.84	\$ 4.14
Owensboro	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.91	\$ 4.09

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	12/2/2013	11/18/2013	11/11/2013	11/4/2013	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.48	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.53	\$ 3.84
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.27	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.08

Spot Prices	12/4/2013	11/20/2013	11/13/2013	11/6/2013	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 97.63	\$ 95.28	\$ 94.11	\$ 94.44	\$ 85.47
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.62	\$ 3.67	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.41

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		January 2014	February 2014	March 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	12/4/2013	\$ 97.20	\$ 97.43	\$ 97.45
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	12/4/2013	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.94
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	12/4/2013	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.24	\$ 1.18
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	12/4/2013	\$ 55.94	\$ 56.29	\$ 56.75

Source: CME Group

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