
Obama touts new energy trust at Argonne National Laboratory

With Washington in political gridlock over spending, President Barack Obama traveled Friday to Argonne National Laboratory to announce an energy proposal that would secure money for advanced vehicles by diverting federal revenue from offshore oil and gas production. Using the pre-eminent Chicagoland research facility as a backdrop, Obama pitched the \$2 billion, 10-year trust as a way to wean Americans off oil by securing the development of cars and trucks that run off of electricity, homegrown biofuels and natural gas. (The Chicago Tribune, March 16, 2013)

Group of Democratic Senators encourage coal-friendly EPA rules

Four Democratic senators have sent a letter to President Barack Obama urging the president's administration to amend the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new source performance standard (NSPS) regulations. Senators Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Mary Landrieu of Louisiana requested Obama to urge the EPA to differentiate the standards based on fuel type and establish supercritical coal generation technology as the performance standard for new coal-based technology. The senators wrote in the letter, which was released Monday, that the proposed performance standards of 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per MWh for new facilities would prevent the construction of new coal-fired power plants or upgrading existing facilities. (The Energy Tribune, March 20, 2013)

Energy Secretary Peters says 'structural changes' in coal industry not good for Eastern Ky.

The mining industry in Eastern Kentucky might not be able to bounce back from its recent slide even as coal production in Western Kentucky continues to chug along, said Len Peters, the secretary of the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet. Simple economics seems to be at the heart of a systemic problem with Eastern Kentucky's future in mining (watch the interview below). That's one of the reasons why Pike County is no longer the coal capital of Kentucky. Union County has surpassed it in production. "There's a lot of debate going on within my staff ... We're asking the question 'Are there some structural changes going on in Eastern Kentucky?'" Peters said. Find out what he means by that at 2:00 of the interview. (www.mycn2.com, March 19, 2013)

Energy department deciding on landfill in Paducah

The U.S. Department of Energy is expected to decide late in 2014 whether to approve construction of an on-site landfill for waste materials from the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The Paducah Sun reported (<http://bit.ly/15UgdJ5>) that officials think a landfill could be constructed as part of the ongoing environmental cleanup at the site. DOE officials started seeking public input in November 2008 regarding the potential construction of a disposal area within the more than 6,000 acres that houses and surrounds the plant in western McCracken County. (The Herald Leader, March 18, 2013)

KU offers 2 easy ways to prepare for spring storms

Now that spring is officially here, spring storms are probably on the way. Kentucky Utilities Co. and Louisville Gas and Electric Co., which serve 546,000 customers in 77 Kentucky counties and five counties in Virginia, offer simple ways customers can plan for severe weather. KU takes steps year-round to prepare for the effects of inclement weather and encourages its customers to plan ahead, too, so they can be safe during storm events. Plan ahead: Visit www.ready.gov to make a plan and learn how to build an emergency supply kit, which should include items such as prescription medicines, weather radio, important phone numbers, a first aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, to name a few. Before severe weather strikes, KU prepares by monitoring weather conditions, placing field crews and contact centers on alert and readying operating equipment and material. (The Lane Report, March 20, 2013)

Kentucky Denies Permit for Coal Ash Landfill At Trimble County Power Plant

The Kentucky Division of Waste Management has denied a pending permit for a coal ash landfill in Trimble County. The proposed landfill would have been 218 acres, near Louisville Gas and Electric's Trimble County Power Station. It was meant to store the coal ash produced by the plant, but ever since it was first proposed, the project has encountered numerous problems. First, residents near the site protested. They worried their family homesteads would be ruined by air and water pollution. Next, a cave was discovered on site. (WFPL News, March 20, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

| Product | 3/21/2013 | 3/14/2013 | 3/7/2013 | 2/28/2013 | Year Ago |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Gasoline (State avg.) | \$ 3.67 | \$ 3.68 | \$ 3.65 | \$ 3.77 | \$ 3.81 |
| Ashland | \$ 3.76 | \$ 3.83 | \$ 3.69 | \$ 3.80 | \$ 3.90 |
| Covington | \$ 3.85 | \$ 3.75 | \$ 3.74 | \$ 3.84 | \$ 3.90 |
| Lexington | \$ 3.61 | \$ 3.75 | \$ 3.64 | \$ 3.83 | \$ 3.82 |
| Louisville | \$ 3.76 | \$ 3.58 | \$ 3.65 | \$ 3.76 | \$ 3.85 |
| Owensboro | \$ 3.52 | \$ 3.54 | \$ 3.59 | \$ 3.64 | \$ 3.75 |
| Diesel (State avg.) | \$ 4.01 | \$ 4.04 | \$ 4.06 | \$ 4.10 | \$ 4.10 |
| Ashland | \$ 4.10 | \$ 4.09 | \$ 4.09 | \$ 4.13 | \$ 4.13 |
| Covington | \$ 4.02 | \$ 4.09 | \$ 4.08 | \$ 4.11 | \$ 4.09 |
| Lexington | \$ 4.05 | \$ 4.08 | \$ 4.10 | \$ 4.12 | \$ 4.13 |
| Louisville | \$ 4.00 | \$ 4.02 | \$ 4.05 | \$ 4.08 | \$ 4.10 |
| Owensboro | \$ 4.04 | \$ 4.05 | \$ 4.06 | \$ 4.12 | \$ 4.08 |

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 | 3/18/2013 | 3/11/2013 | 3/4/2013 | 2/25/2013 | Year Ago |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Heating Oil (dollars per gallon) | \$ 3.62 | \$ 3.67 | \$ 3.71 | \$ 3.78 | \$ 3.71 |
| Propane (dollars per gallon) | \$ 2.19 | \$ 2.19 | \$ 2.18 | \$ 2.19 | \$ 2.56 |

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Wholesale Fuel Prices

| Spot Prices | 3/20/2013 | 3/13/2013 | 3/6/2013 | 2/27/2013 | Year Ago |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i> | \$ 92.96 | \$ 92.52 | \$ 90.43 | \$ 92.76 | \$ 106.87 |
| MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i> | \$ 3.98 | \$ 3.72 | \$ 3.57 | \$ 3.54 | \$ 2.19 |

Source: the Wall Street Journal

| Futures | | 1-Apr | 1-May | 1-Jun |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i> | 3/20/2013 | \$ 92.96 | \$ 93.50 | \$ 93.77 |
| | 3/13/2013 | \$ 92.52 | \$ 92.88 | \$ 93.13 |
| | 3/6/2013 | \$ 90.43 | \$ 90.90 | \$ 91.30 |
| Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i> | 3/20/2013 | \$ 3.96 | \$ 3.99 | \$ 4.02 |
| | 3/13/2013 | \$ 3.68 | \$ 3.72 | \$ 3.76 |
| | 3/6/2013 | \$ 3.47 | \$ 3.52 | \$ 3.57 |
| Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i> | 3/20/2013 | \$ 0.92 | \$ 0.92 | \$ 0.92 |
| | 3/13/2013 | \$ 0.88 | \$ 0.88 | \$ 0.89 |
| | 3/6/2013 | \$ 0.85 | \$ 0.85 | \$ 0.86 |
| Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i> | 3/20/2013 | \$ 55.75 | \$ 56.62 | \$ 57.50 |
| | 3/13/013 | \$ 57.25 | \$ 57.93 | \$ 58.50 |
| | 3/6/2013 | \$ 58.87 | \$ 59.07 | \$ 59.20 |

Source: CME Group

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