

Kentucky Energy Watch

Department for Energy Development and Independence

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Lt. Gov. Abramson Receives General Electric's Energy, Environmental Award

Lieutenant Governor Jerry Abramson is the recipient of the 2013 Public Leadership in Energy and Environmental Stewardship Award, a nationwide recognition of his work on energy and the environment. Abramson is the third recipient of this annual award presented by General Electric in partnership with the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA). "Lt. Gov. Abramson has been a longtime supporter of both U.S. energy resources and our environment," said Trey Paris, of GE, who presented the award to Abramson today at NLGA's Federal-State Relations meeting. (Kentucky.gov, March 21, 2013)

Five Kentucky Organizations Receive 2013 Energy Star Awards

Five organizations in Kentucky were honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) with 2013 awards from the Energy Star Program. This award was given because of their outstanding leadership and commitment to protecting America's environment through energy efficiency. "EPA congratulates this year's Energy Star award winners," said EPA Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe. (Yosemite.epa.gov March 26, 2013)

Sen. Smith: Region's coalfields have lost 312 mines

Senate Majority Whip Brandon Smith spoke on several issues involving coal during the Bell County Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Thursday. The most shocking news, according to Smith, involved the amount of coal mine closures in the region. Smith said eastern Kentucky has always mined the majority of coal in Kentucky. He said the eastern part of the state typically mines 75 percent of the coal in Kentucky, while 25 percent is mined by the western part of the state. (harlandaily.com, March 22, 2013)

Increased Dependence on Natural Gas Exposes Holes in U.S. Electrical Grid

Increasing use of natural gas to generate electricity in the United States might be helping the environment, but it's also exposing some serious issues in how the electric and natural gas industries work together — issues that could ultimately result in dangerous power outages if not addressed, experts warn. (usnews.com March 20, 2013)

Audit Faults Stimulus-Backed \$1.5 Billion U.S. Clean-Coal Effort

Poor management has hampered a U.S. program to develop technology to capture carbon-dioxide emissions, the Energy Department inspector general said in a report that raises new questions about a clean-energy initiative backed by the 2009 economic stimulus. In total, the Energy Department received \$1.5 billion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to invest in technology that responds to climate-change risks. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that most scientists think is making the planet hotter. (Bloomberg.com March 26, 2013)

KY's Capitol lights set to go out Saturday

Gov. Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear say the Capitol campus will go dark on Saturday in support of "Earth Hour," an international environmental campaign sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund. 2013 marks the fifth consecutive year of Kentucky's participation in Earth Hour. While international in scope, Earth Hour also represents grassroots recognition that everyone can contribute to the betterment of our environment. "We're happy to show our support of the environment by participating," said Gov. Beshear. (14news.com March 23, 2013)

Jackson Purchase Energy to file rate increase request

Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation (JPEC) has announced its intention to file a rate increase request with the Kentucky Public Service Commission. The proposed increase would add an average of \$21.30 monthly to each residential bill. Officials with JPEC added that commercial and industrial rates would increase by about 21 percent beginning this August. JPEC says its increase request comes in anticipation of a \$10.9 million increase from its power supplier, Big Rivers Energy Corporation. (wpsdlocal6.com March 27, 2013)

Wiring taken from bridge, cabinet tries solar

Solar-powered lights have been placed on a western Kentucky bridge while authorities try to find who is responsible for removing wiring from the bridge's navigational lights. Engineers with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet say damage could be up to \$50,000, and the cabinet says it's prepared to seek charges in the matter. (Kentucky.com March 21, 2013)

Dairy finds way to let cows power trucks

Here at one of the largest dairy farms in the country, electricity generated using an endless supply of manure runs the equipment to milk around 30,000 cows three times a day. For years, the farm has used livestock waste to create enough natural gas to power 10 barns, a cheese factory, a cafe, a gift shop and a maze of child-friendly exhibits about the world of dairy, including a 4D movie theater. (nytimes.com March 27, 2013)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	3/28/2013	3/21/2013	3/14/2013	3/7/2013	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.67	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.89
Ashland	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.88
Covington	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.85	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.74	\$ 3.98
Lexington	\$ 3.57	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.85
Louisville	\$ 3.67	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.98
Owensboro	\$ 3.48	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.54	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.80
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.98	\$ 4.01	\$ 4.04	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.11
Ashland	\$ 4.07	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.09	\$ 4.09	\$ 4.13
Covington	\$ 4.01	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.09	\$ 4.08	\$ 4.13
Lexington	\$ 4.01	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.08	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.13
Louisville	\$ 3.98	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.11
Owensboro	\$ 4.02	\$ 4.04	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.11

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	3/20/2013	3/18/2013	3/11/2013	3/4/2013	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 3.62	\$ 3.62	\$ 3.67	\$ 3.71	-
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.18	-

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Wholesale Fuel Prices

Spot Prices	3/27/2013	3/20/2013	3/13/2013	3/6/2013	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	\$ 96.58	\$ 92.96	\$ 92.52	\$ 90.43	\$ 105.50
MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 4.06	\$ 3.98	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.57	\$ 2.04

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		1-May	1-Jun	1-Jul
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	3/27/2013	\$ 96.58	\$ 96.84	\$ 96.98
	3/20/2013	\$ 92.96	\$ 93.50	\$ 93.77
	3/13/2013	\$ 92.52	\$ 92.88	\$ 93.13
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3/27/2013	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.15
	3/20/2013	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.99	\$ 4.02
	3/13/2013	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.76
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	3/27/2013	\$ 0.96	\$ 0.96	\$ 0.97
	3/20/2013	\$ 0.92	\$ 0.92	\$ 0.92
	3/13/2013	\$ 0.88	\$ 0.88	\$ 0.89
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	3/27/2013	\$ 57.28	\$ 58.18	\$ 60.30
	3/20/2013	\$ 55.75	\$ 56.62	\$ 57.50
	3/13/013	\$ 57.25	\$ 57.93	\$ 58.50

Source: CME Group

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