

Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

No additional coal plant closures expected from EPA rule

Some Kentucky lawmakers continued to resist the science of climate change even as a top Kentucky energy official said he does not expect proposed new EPA rules to require any coal-fired power plants to shut down -- beyond those already closing to meet other regulations. (www.courier-journal.com July 3, 2014)

Natural-gas to attract bulk of U.S. energy investment: report

The next decade and a half will see renewable energy grow its share of electricity generation capacity in the Americas from 7% in 2012 to 28% in 2030, Bloomberg New Energy Finance said in its market outlook report. Coal-fired energy capacity will fall from 21% to 9%, the research company said. (www.marketwatch.com July 1, 2014)

Kentucky Coal Facts report contrasts state's coal fields

A new report on the state of Kentucky's coal industry shows the western coal fields surpassed production in the eastern part of the Commonwealth for the first time in more than a century. The 2014 Kentucky Coal Facts report shows Kentucky produced 12 percent less coal in 2013 than the year prior, and for the first time since 1911, Western Kentucky production beat out Eastern Kentucky's. (www.wkyt.com July 9, 2014)

Coal company uses glitch to swing for the fences against EPA rule

A large coal company's petition against the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed emissions rule for power plants is a legal swing for the fences, but a decades-old discrepancy in a technical amendment to the Clean Air Act might give it a chance, according to experts. Separate House and Senate versions of the act, which was last amended in 1990, were never reconciled and therefore lead to different interpretations. (www.washingtonexaminer.com July 1, 2014)

Setback Changes Will End New Wind Farms in Ohio

With little discussion or fanfare, Ohio legislators have essentially put a stop to new wind farms in the state, industry experts say. Governor John Kasich signed House Bill 483 on Monday, just days after signing another bill that freezes and alters Ohio's renewable energy and energy efficiency standards. HB 483 includes revised setback provisions that will likely make new projects economically unfeasible. (www.greentechmedia.com June 24, 2014)

Newly released jobless rates in Kentucky discouraging for coal country

Finding an unemployed coal miner in Pike County, KY is like finding a needle in a needle stack. "You just don't know from day to day if you're going to have a job or not," says Austin Ward of Pikeville, of the uncertainty he lived with at his high-paying coal mining job until he was eventually laid off in the fall. "I was bringing in about a grand a week. Then, we went down to 40 hours a week, before we got laid off, and I was bringing in about 600 a week. (www.wowktv.com June 28, 2014)

Assessing combined heat and power

Manufacturers play an immense role in energy consumption across Kentucky, using a little more than 50 percent of all kilowatts burned in the state, said Greg Higdon, president and CEO of the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers. Thus manufacturers are critical to the state's performance as it works toward a goal of offsetting at least 18 percent of the projected 2025 energy demand by leveraging efficiencies. (www.lanereport.com July 8, 2014)

Renewables provide 14% OF U.S. electrical generation

Two new back-to-back reports from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) provide a snapshot of U.S. energy trends for the first months of 2014. EIA's "Electric Power Monthly" was released on June 23 and provides data through April 30 for the nation's electrical sector (<http://earthteclng.com> June 26, 2014)

U.S.: Oil production in 2015 to be highest since 1972

U.S. crude oil production, rising steadily since 2008, is likely next year to hit its highest level since 1972 while Iraq's output, despite unrest there, is expected to hold steady, according to a forecast Tuesday by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. (<http://americasmarkets.usatoday.com> July 8, 2014)

What is the cost of clean energy?

Kentucky utility officials – and customers – are assessing the impact of power-plant carbon-emission limits expected to begin in the a few years and setting strategies to remain competitive and control energy costs they expect to rise by double-digit percentages. (www.lanereport.com July 7, 2014)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	7/10/2014	7/3/2014	6/26/2014	6/19/2014	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.67	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.50
Ashland	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.74	\$ 3.32
Covington	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.54
Lexington	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.73	\$ 3.79	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.49
Louisville	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.44
Owensboro	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.64	\$ 3.67	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.47
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.91	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.82
Ashland	\$ 3.84	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.83
Covington	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.88
Lexington	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.84
Louisville	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.81
Owensboro	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.88

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	7/10/2014	6/30/2014	6/26/2014	6/16/2014	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, job</i>	\$ 104.19	\$ 106.07	\$ 106.83	\$ 107.52	\$ 106.41
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 4.16	\$ 4.36	\$ 4.43	\$ 4.59	\$ 3.66

Source: the Wall Street Journal

Futures		August 2014	September 2014	October 2014
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	7/9/2014	\$ 102.29	\$ 101.75	\$ 101.04
	7/2/2014	\$ 104.48	\$ 103.91	\$ 103.09
	6/26/2014	\$ 106.50	\$ 105.72	\$ 104.73
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	7/9/2014	\$ 4.17	\$ 4.17	\$ 4.17
	7/2/2014	\$ 4.36	\$ 4.35	\$ 4.35
	6/26/2014	\$ 4.57	\$ 4.55	\$ 4.54
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Behieu (OPIS)</i>	7/9/2014	\$ 1.03	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.05
	7/2/2014	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.07
	6/26/2014	\$ 1.09	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.11
Coal (Dollars per ton) <i>Central Appalachian</i>	7/9/2014	\$ 60.25	\$ 60.23	\$ 59.90
	7/2/2014	\$ 61.20	\$ 61.18	\$ 61.50
	6/26/2014	\$ 61.55	\$ 61.45	\$ 61.88

Source: CME Group



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