

Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence Energy Watch

A snapshot of state and national energy issues

Chief justice rejects plea to block air pollution rule

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts rejected a plea Thursday to block a contentious air pollution rule for power plants in a big victory for the Obama administration. Roberts's order came despite his court's 5-4 decision last year ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulation, known as the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, is illegal. (<http://thehill.com> March 3, 2016)

How Much Do Oil Prices Affect The Stock Market?

The U.S. stock market is comprised of thousands of individual stocks from numerous industries and sectors and is affected by many factors. Because it is human nature to look for causation in events, we ask, "Why would stock prices rise or fall with oil?" During the first few months of 2016, stocks have been doing exactly that. However, this is not always the case. In this article, we will examine the relationship between oil and stock prices over the past 26 years. (www.forbes.com Feb. 29, 2016)

University of Cincinnati study finds fracking's bad rap is not supported

A three-year study by the University of Cincinnati in Carroll and surrounding counties determined hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has no effect on groundwater in the Utica shale region, is not being released to the public. Dr. Amy Townsend-Small, the lead researcher for the University of Cincinnati Department of Geology, released the results during the Feb. 4 meeting of the Carroll County Concerned Citizens in Carrollton. (<http://freepressstandard.com> March 2, 2016)

Duke Energy CEO: Cyberattacks growing from foreign threats

The volume of cyberattacks on the country's largest electric company is astounding, and much of it is coming from computer hackers backed by foreign governments, Duke Energy Corp. CEO Lynn Good said Tuesday. So besides hardening online defenses, Duke Energy is focusing on how quickly the company could restore power if the flow to any of its 7.2 million customers in six states is switched off by malicious outsiders, Good said in an interview with The Associated Press. (www.charlotteobserver.com March 1, 2016)

Kentucky Senate approves nuclear power bill

A bill that would lift a long-standing moratorium on nuclear power plants in the state, was approved today by the Kentucky Senate. Senate Bill 89 would amend Kentucky Revised Statutes to change the requirement that facilities have means of permanent disposal of nuclear waste. Instead they would only be required to have a plan for its safe storage, and that the plans be approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (www.lanereport.com March 2, 2016)

Kentucky American Water names new superintendent of operations for northern division

Kentucky American Water has announced that Cody Brenneman has been named superintendent of operations for the company's Northern Division, which includes water and wastewater operations in Gallatin, Grant and Owen counties. Brenneman will report to Kevin Rogers, vice president of operations for Kentucky American Water. (www.thelanereport.com March 3, 2016)



Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	3/3/2016	2/26/2016	2/19/2016	2/11/2016	Year Ago
Gasoline (State avg.)	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.73	\$ 1.72	\$ 1.70	\$ 2.44
Ashland	\$ 1.86	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.62	\$ 1.59	\$ 2.37
Covington	\$ 1.90	\$ 1.78	\$ 1.62	\$ 1.59	\$ 2.48
Lexington	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.76	\$ 1.59	\$ 1.53	\$ 2.34
Louisville	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.65	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.51	\$ 2.31
Owensboro	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.59	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.49	\$ 2.27
Diesel (State avg.)	\$ 1.98	\$ 1.98	\$ 1.99	\$ 2.01	\$ 2.92
Ashland	\$ 1.90	\$ 1.91	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.92	\$ 2.95
Covington	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.90	\$ 1.96	\$ 2.90
Lexington	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.98	\$ 1.98	\$ 2.01	\$ 2.94
Louisville	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.93	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.91
Owensboro	\$ 1.98	\$ 1.99	\$ 2.02	\$ 2.03	\$ 2.78

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	2/29/2016	2/22/2016	2/15/2016	2/8/2016	Year Ago
Heating Oil (dollars per gallon)	\$ 1.65	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.64	\$ 2.62
Propane (dollars per gallon)	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.84	\$ 1.86	\$ 1.84	\$ 2.15

http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_wfr_dcus_SKY_w.htm

Spot Prices	2/29/2016	2/22/2016	2/16/2016	2/8/2016	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 32.74	\$ 31.37	\$ 29.05	\$ 29.71	\$ 49.84
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 1.62	\$ 1.95	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.28	\$ 2.79
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Central Appalachia</i>	\$ 43.50	\$ 43.50	\$ 43.50	\$ 43.50	\$ 53.06
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Illinois Basin</i>	\$ 32.60	\$ 32.60	\$ 32.60	\$ 32.60	\$ 40.32

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/Tearsheets/Summary?s=1069936>

Futures		April 2016	May 2016	June 2016
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	3/2/2016	\$ 34.66	\$ 36.30	\$ 37.39
	2/25/2016	\$ 33.07	\$ 34.83	\$ 36.12
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	3/2/2016	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.90
	2/25/2016	\$ 1.79	\$ 1.87	\$ 1.94
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	3/2/2016	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.44
	2/25/2016	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.42

Source: http://www.cmegroup.com/daily_bulletin/current/Section61_Energy_Futures_Products.pdf

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