

Office of Energy Policy Newsletter, March 2020 SPECIAL ISSUE

Staff Notes and Reads

In support of the Governor's guidelines to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Office of Energy Policy is serving the Commonwealth with modifications to staff schedules and work environments. #TEAM Kentucky

As a resource to our energy partners and fellow citizens this special edition newsletter shares energy and health-related quick-links for up-to-date announcements and statistics.

EEC Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman shares the most recent [Executive Order, March 17, 2020](#) directing the closure of certain businesses and venues that cannot, by their nature, avoid face-to-face contact.

For links to all [Executive Orders](#), news releases and other advisories issued by Governor Andy Beshear, visit <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

[KY Transportation Cabinet Issues Emergency Order for Commercial Drivers Assisting in COVID-19 Relief Efforts](#) March 13, 2020 [Click here](#) to view order.

The Kentucky Office of Energy Policy has a responsibility established by the Kentucky Emergency Operations Plan for *Emergency Support Function 12*, which outlines procedures for coordinating and communicating energy issues during an emergency. Under ESF-12, OEP staff assigned to the Kentucky Emergency Management operations maintain communication with utility and fuel providers and conduct daily situation briefings. For additional information and resources, visit Energy and Environment Cabinet, [Energy Policy Website](#).

Updates are being posted to the kycovid19.ky.gov site daily. The [CDC site](#) also has important information for you. If you want information about efforts to stem the spread of the virus, both of these sites are valuable. They also offer the most important and updated information for instructions on how you can do your part. #TEAMKentucky

Kentucky State Government Cabinet Update

Kentucky State Government Cabinets have been directed by the Governor's Office to cease providing *in person services to the public*, effective at 5:00 p.m. March 17, 2020. All services will continue to be provided by the use of email, fax, text, phone or video means.

Health and safety of our staff, families, and fellow citizens are top priorities for us all.

We are all working together!
[#TEAMKentucky](#).

For daily COVID-19 updates and resources, be sure to visit Kentucky's official site or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

kycovid19.ky.gov

1.800.722.5725
State Hotline

[CDC](#)

Partner Spotlight

kycovid19.ky.gov

KY Emergency Management COVID-19 Dashboard



KY Public Service Commission Orders Utilities to Halt Disconnection During Coronavirus Emergencies

On March 16, 2020, the [Kentucky Public Service Commission \(PSC\)](#) ordered all utilities under its jurisdiction to suspend until further notice, and for at least 30 days, all disconnections for non-payment, as well as late payment fees, in order to provide relief for customers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic.

In the order issued Tuesday, the PSC stated that disconnections pose a risk of COVID-19 transmission to utility employees and are a waste of utility resources at a time when there is a “pressing need to ensure continuity, and thus adequacy, of service.” The PSC noted that its order does not apply to municipal utilities, over which it has no jurisdiction, but nevertheless urged them to follow suit and suspend non-payment disconnections and late fees.

[Read more.](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Quick-Link Resources

Coronavirus Resources for Employers, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Electric Companies & Pandemic Planning, What You Should Know, Edison Electric Institute

Recommendation to Industry, COVID-19 Pandemic Contingency Planning, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)

Oil and Natural Gas Industry Pandemic Planning Guide, American Petroleum Institute

US Pandemic Planning Efforts and Resources COVID-19, Center for Disease Control

Insights Brochure-Risk Management for Novel COVID-19, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

National Risk Management of Coronavirus, DHS and CISA

Global Status on COVID-19 Disease Outbreak, World Health Organization website

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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