

Beshear asking to add 16 more counties for FEMA aid

by Tom Latek
Kentucky Today
Special to West KY News

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear announced on Tuesday he has sent two additional requests to FEMA seeking aid for families and communities affected by April’s floods after President Donald Trump approved the major disaster declaration late last week.

First, the governor is requesting families in 16 more counties receive Individual Assistance to help them recover. On April 25, the governor announced that President Donald Trump had given the okay to part of his April 11 request for a Major Disaster Declaration, which included Individual Assistance for Kentuckians in 13 of the counties affected by the most recent flooding.

Families in the first

13 counties approved for Individual Assistance are: Anderson, Butler, Carroll, **Christian**, Clark, Franklin, Hardin, **Hopkins**, Jessamine, **McCracken**, Mercer, Owen and Woodford, can visit any Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) for recovery assistance and to apply for federal aid. While eight DRCs have already opened, All 13 counties are expected to have one by April 30.

The 16 additional counties in this latest request are: Bullitt, **CalLOWay**, Grayson, Hancock, Hart, **Henderson**, Jefferson, Lincoln, McLean, Meade, Nelson, Ohio, Powell, Trimble, Warren and **Webster**.

Second, the governor is now requesting Public Assistance for 64 counties in which FEMA has validated damages. The Governor also renewed his request for approval for hazard miti-

gation for the entire state.

At the time of the initial request, the Governor noted that more counties would be added to the declaration through an amendment process as assessments are completed.

“As promised, today we are asking President Trump to approve federal aid for additional counties and families affected by April’s floods,” Beshear said. “These funds are crucial in helping our families and communities rebuild, and we are planning to add even more counties later this week. We are committed to making sure our families get the help they need.”

As the rains led to widespread flooding, Gov. Beshear declared a state of emergency on April 2, and activated the State Emergency Operations Center and the



Photograph shows the flooded Kentucky River in Frankfort. Gov. Andy Beshear is asking that 16 more counties be included in a major disaster declaration. Thirteen counties were named last week by the White House.
(photo by Tom Latek, Kentucky Today)

state’s price gouging laws to protect Kentuckians from overpriced goods and services as they clean up and recover from the severe weather. The price gouging prohibition was re-

newed April 17.

Following the storms, the governor urged local officials to start the federal Individual Assistance and Public Assistance damage assessments and asked

Kentuckians who experienced storm damage to take photographs before cleaning up and to report the damages to their local emergency management officials.

SPENDING AN ETERNITY IN ONE OF TWO PLACES

By Dr. Billy Holland
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We mentioned last week about how the way to heaven is conditional upon being born again and doing the will of the Father. It’s true the blood of Jesus forgives our sins when we confess and repent, as holiness is not automatic but rather is accomplished through our determination to demonstrate a life of sanctification. We comprehend that salvation is intertwined with the covenant that Christ established on the cross and through His resurrection. He gave His life for us, and as we take up our cross and obey, we pledge to give all of our mind and heart to Him. Grace is not a license to sin, but an invitation to accept His glorious plan to deliver and transform

our spiritual identity from death to life.

This opportunity to become a child of God is the greatest act of love and mercy, and we are overwhelmed with the reality that God reached down and pulled us from the darkness and doom of a hopeless future. Praise Him forever! We have touched on the subject of who will be in heaven, and many disagree that it is not only limited to the Christian faith, and that all belief systems that live in love and are morally good will be granted acceptance. This all roads lead to heaven philosophy is popular around the world and are appalled that any particular religious group would claim to have exclusive rights to eternal salvation. However, Jesus made this quite clear, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father

except through me.”

How can anyone disregard this specific truth and say this means any god, faith, or philosophy? And, does this mean the billions of people who have heard the gospel but refuse Christ as their Lord are lost? We must reject compromising and sugar coating spiritual truth with human opinions. According to the Bible, yes.

A feature of the new heaven and earth will be the 2 million square mile glorious city of new Jerusalem where the saints will live with God forever. So, how many people will be there? First we need to use a calculation system to determine how many people have lived in the last 6000 years since Adam. We will use the young earth as a base for our estimate. If the population doubles every 10 to

150 years and then also take note the world started over after the first 1500 years with the flood, we have a general figure of around 140-160 billion humans. However, this does not include the unborn that have died through stillbirths, miscarriages, and abortions which is a considerable number. If we research infant mortality rates among children under the age of 10, and we add another group with intellectual disabilities, we see this group of innocents are could reach into the billions alone. Using the narrow and broad path analogy from Jesus Himself, let’s use a 10 percent calculation for the true followers of God throughout time that are over the age of 10 which is a generally accepted turning point for the

age of accountability, and this adds up to roughly another 16 billion. There is no doubt, we will have plenty of brothers and sisters to meet in the next life.

Another doctrine that is difficult to comprehend is our free will choice verses God’s divine election or predestination. I’ve come to the conclusion that we are given free will since the Bible emphasizes our ability to choose with passages such as John 7:17, 3:16, Revelation 22:17, Romans 6:15-23, Galatians 5:11, Joshua 24:15 and many others, yet we must also embrace the scriptures that explain His sovereign choices like Jeremiah 1:4-5, Romans 8:29, Matthew 22:14, Acts 13:48, Ephesians 1:11, and Ephesians 1:4-5, “According as he hath chosen us in Him before

the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”

Nothing happens without God allowing or preventing. Do you believe His power to draw us to Him is based on His foreknowledge of who He knows will serve Him, or is His selection an intentional act of His sovereignty? Were individuals such as Jesus, Mary, the disciples, John the Baptist, Moses and Abraham predestined? Can the doctrine of Calvinism and Arminianism work together? I believe they are both a part of God’s plan.

Dr. Holland is a licensed minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com.

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NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

RECOVERY BY ENVIRONMENTAL SURCHARGE OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY'S 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in an April 30, 2025 Application, Kentucky Utilities Company (“KU”) is seeking approval by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) in Case No. 2025-00105, pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 278.183, of an amended compliance plan (“2025 Plan”). (Collectively, KU’s Application and supporting testimony and exhibits are KU’s “tariff filing.”) If approved, KU will begin recovering capital costs associated with a new pollution control facility in the 2025 Plan under KU’s existing Electric Rate Schedule ECR (also known as the Environmental Surcharge tariff) through an increase in the environmental surcharge on customers’ bills beginning in December 2025.

KU filed an application with the Commission on February 28, 2025, in Case No. 2025-00045 seeking approval to construct a selective catalytic reduction system at the Ghent generating station to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, which are a precursor to ozone. In Case No. 2025-00105, KU is seeking an order approving the 2025 Plan to recover the costs of this new pollution control facility through its Environmental Surcharge tariff. This project will help ensure ongoing compliance with regulations issued under the federal Clean Air Act as amended, including the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.

The estimated total capital cost of this new pollution control facility is \$152.3 million. Additionally, KU is requesting recovery of future incremental capital and operation and maintenance expenses associated with this new pollution control facility. KU is also asking to recover the cost of publishing this customer notice through the Environmental Surcharge over 12 months and to have Environmental Surcharge recovery of future Commission-approved administrative expenses, including customer notice costs.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 1 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 0.81% in 2029. Group 1 includes Rate Schedules Residential Service (RS), Residential Time-of-Day Energy Service (RTODE), Residential Time-of-Day Demand Service (RTODD), Volunteer Fire Department Service (VFD), All Electric School (AES), and all Lighting Rates (i.e., LS, RLS, LE, and TE).

RS and VFD customers using 1,085 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.09. RTODE customers using 1,043 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.14. RTODD customers using 987 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.80. AES customers using 25,620 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.30 up to \$24.28. LS and RLS customers could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.12. LE customers using 2,473 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.59. TE customers using 147 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.15.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU’s Group 2 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 1.10% in 2029. Group 2 includes Rate Schedules General Service (GS), General Time-of-Day Energy Service (GTODE), General Time-of-Day Demand Service (GTODD), Power Service (PS), Time-of-Day Secondary Service (TODS), Time-of-Day Primary Service (TODP), Retail Transmission Service (RTS), Fluctuating Load Service (FLS), and Outdoor Sports Lighting Service (OSL).

GS customers using 1,657 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.03 up to \$2.41. GTODD customers using 19,652 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.31 up to \$25.26. PS-Secondary customers using 30,434 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.39 up to \$32.35. PS-Primary customers using 35,028 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.45 up to \$36.82. TODS customers using 189,538 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$1.54 up to \$126.82. TODP customers using 1,242,574 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$8.25 up to \$678.42. RTS customers using 7,387,224 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$38.91 up to \$3,199.31. FLS-Transmission customers using 44,229,667 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$237.46 up to \$19,525.53. OSL-Secondary customers using 4,627 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.17 up to \$13.87.

The Application described in this Notice is proposed by KU, but the Commission may issue an order resulting in an environmental surcharge for customers other than the environmental surcharge described in this Notice.

Comments regarding KU’s 2025 Plan and Application may be submitted to the Commission through its website or by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

Any person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this Notice, the Commission may take final action on the Application.

Any person may examine KU’s tariff filing at the Commission’s offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Commission’s website at <http://psc.ky.gov> or KU’s website (<http://www.lge-ku.com>) after KU makes its tariff filing on April 30, 2025. KU has requested a deviation from the requirement to make the tariff filing available at its office at One Quality Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. If the Commission denies that request, KU will make the tariff filing available at its office upon request by any person.