

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF KENTUCKY)	
UTILITIES COMPANY AND LOUISVILLE GAS)	CASE NO.
AND ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR EMERGENCY)	2022-00024
TARIFF RELIEF)	

ORDER

On January 20, 2022, Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas & Electric (jointly, KU/LG&E) filed a letter¹ requesting Commission approval to (1) waive the \$37.00 disconnect and reconnect fee through October 1, 2022, upon a showing of financial hardship and (2) waive the non-refundable 15 percent charge for temporary to permanent service which requires service for construction of permanent delivery points for residences and commercial buildings upon a showing of financial hardship through October 1, 2022. The Commission will treat the letter as an application for emergency relief arising from the December 10, 2021 tornadic event.

In its request, KU/LG&E explained that the tornadic event took down 612 wires, 450 distribution poles, 70 transmission poles, a distribution substation, and a storeroom. KU/LG&E proposed to consider a waiver for customers who provide evidence of financial hardship due to the historic storms, including but not limited to cost of temporary housing, loss of job, cost of replacement items, and delay in FEMA assistance.

¹ KU/LG&E's letter is attached to this Order as an Appendix.

LEGAL STANDARD

Pursuant to KRS 278.040, the Commission regulates jurisdictional utilities and has the authority to enforce the provisions of KRS Chapter 278. KRS 278.180(1) requires a utility to provide the Commission with a minimum 20-day notice prior to changing a tariffed rate. KRS 278.180(2) allows the Commission to prescribe a shorter period to provide notice if there is a reduction in rates. However, the notice period for any tariff changes is also controlled by KRS 278.170(2), which allows a utility to “grant free or reduced rate service for the purpose of providing relief in case of flood, epidemic, pestilence, or other calamity.” KRS 278.170(2) further provides that, in case of an emergency, a utility shall notify the Commission of the reduced rate service at least five days after the service is rendered.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Pursuant to Executive Order 2021-923, there exists a state of emergency in Kentucky beginning on December 10, 2021, resulting from a “powerful severe weather system generating heavy rain, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and strong straight-line winds impacted the Commonwealth of Kentucky, causing flash flooding, loss of power, damage to public infrastructure and private properties.”² The conditions arising from the severe weather endangered public health and safety.

Based on KU/LG&E's filing and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that the tornadic event and subsequent damage fall within the statutory provisions of KRS 278.170(2) that allow a utility to provide free or reduced rate service

² Executive Order 2021-923 (Dec. 11, 2021), <http://web.sos.ky.gov/execjournalimages/2021-MISC-2021-0923-277844.pdf>.

and for abbreviated notice to the Commission to provide relief in the event of a “calamity.” Because KU/LG&E's request results in a reduced rate service under KRS 278.170, the Commission finds that KU/LG&E should file a tariff that includes the provision that KU/LG&E's disconnect/reconnect fees will be waived upon a showing of customer financial hardship until KU/LG&E files a subsequent tariff. The Commission finds good cause exists to allow a waiver in disconnect/reconnect fees to go into effect upon its acceptance of filing.

Because KU/LG&E's request results in a reduced rate service under KRS 278.170, the Commission finds that KU/LG&E should file a tariff that includes the provision that KU/LG&E's 15 percent non-refundable fee for temporary-to-permanent service, which requires construction for permanent delivery points for commercial and residential buildings, will be waived upon a showing of customer financial hardship until KU/LG&E files a subsequent tariff. The Commission finds good cause exists to allow a waiver of this fee to go into effect upon its acceptance of filing.

This matter arises from a state of emergency due to tornadic events, the Commission further finds that pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 22, good cause exists to allow KU/LG&E to deviate from the electronic filing requirement in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8(1), which requires a utility to file a notice of its intent to use electronic filing procedures before filing its application.

Nothing in this Order should be construed as relieving customers from the obligation to pay for service rendered. The Commission is taking this measure to ensure that customers are provided the necessary services required to maintain health and

safety. The Commission expects KU/LG&E to file a revised tariff via the Commission's Tariff Filing System after October 1, 2022, as outlined in the request.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

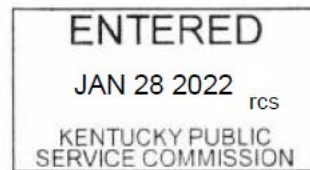
1. KU/LG&E should file with the Commission, using the Commission's electronic Tariff Filing System, new tariff sheets setting forth the waiver provisions due to financial hardship as discussed in this Order reflecting the effective date of January 20, 2022.

2. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

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By the Commission

Commissioner Marianne Butler did not participate in the deliberations or decisions concerning this case.



ATTEST:

Nancy Vinsel for

Executive Director

Case No. 2022-00024

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2022-00024 DATED JAN 28 2022

THREE PAGES TO FOLLOW

RECEIVED

JAN 20 2022

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION



PPL companies

Linda C. Bridwell, PE
Executive Director
Kentucky Public Service Commission
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Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-8294

LG&E and KU Energy LLC
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January 20, 2022

RE: December 2021 Tornadoes – Tariff Relief Requested

Dear Ms. Bridwell:

Beginning on December 10, 2021, a strong storm system moved across the central and southern United States. The National Weather Service (“NWS”) confirmed 66 tornadoes and several long track tornadoes in the United States with 18 tornadoes being confirmed in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.¹ These events caused damage to Louisville Gas and Electric Company (“LG&E) and Kentucky Utilities Company (“KU) (collectively, “the Companies”) distribution and transmission facilities and left 32,715 of the Companies customers without power at the peak of the storm.² The NWS reported an EF4 tornado with estimated wind speeds of 190 mph traveled a path over 165 miles in the western part of the Kentucky, which included parts of the KU service territory.

This historic storm system caused damage across the Companies system, taking down 612 wires, 450 distribution poles, 70 transmission poles, a distribution substation and storeroom. The Companies immediately began to restore the loss of power to their customers. Approximately fifty percent of the customers in the Earlington Operations Center area were restored within 16 hours of peak outages. Most customers in the hardest hit areas had service restored by December 16, 2021.

¹ <https://www.weather.gov/crh/dec112021>

² December 11, 2021 at approximately 4:00 a.m.

Due to the severity of these storms and the impact to the customers in the hardest hit areas and in accordance with the communication on December 15, 2021 from the Kentucky Public Service Commission Executive Director, KU is seeking relief of certain items in its tariff, as noted below.

- KU Tariff P.S.C. No. 20, Original Sheet No. 45, Special Charges
 - Disconnect/Reconnect Service Charge:
Residential and general service Customers may request and be granted temporary suspension of electric service. In the event of such temporary suspension, Company will make a charge of \$37.00 to cover disconnection and reconnection of electric service, such charge to be made before reconnection occurs.

- KU Tariff P.S.C. No. 20, Original Sheet No. 66, Temporary-to-Permanent and Seasonal Service
 - Conditions:
For Temporary-to-Permanent service which requires service for construction of permanent delivery points for residences and commercial buildings, the Company will provide a temporary electric service upon request by the customer for a non-refundable charge. This charge, which will be subject to an annual review and revision, shall depend on the facilities which must be installed (and removed) by the Company in order to connect service.

The standard charge shall be 15% of the estimated installation and removal cost where the facilities to provide service are already in place. It also applies where all of the installed facilities will be utilized, without modification, as part of a future permanent service.

KU will grant relief to its customers impacted by the December 10, 2021 tornado events and is reported by customer or KU employee/agent as described below.

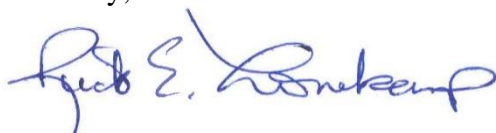
- Customer indicates a financial hardship due to circumstances encountered from the tornado, including, but not limited to:
 - Cost of temporary housing
 - Cost for replacement of items such as clothing, food, and transportation
 - Delay of insurance payment or FEMA assistance
 - Loss of job/income or medical situation

Linda C. Bridwell, Executive Director
January 20, 2022

KU will waive these tariff items for customers meeting this criterion through October 1, 2022 to account for the construction time to rebuild.

Should you have any questions regarding the enclosed, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick E. Lovekamp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Rick E. Lovekamp

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