

NJ wildfire expected to grow before containment

BY BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHATSWORTH, N.J. - A fast-moving wildfire engulfing part of New Jersey's Pine Barrens has not resulted in any injuries, officials said Wednesday, though it's expected to grow before forecast rain later this week.

The fire in southern New Jersey's Lacey and Ocean townships has grown to more than 20 square miles (52 square kilometers) and could continue to burn for days, officials said. No one has been injured so far in the blaze, and 5,000 residents were evacuated but have been permitted to return home. A single commercial building and some vehicles were

Officials said the fire is believed to be the second-worst in the last two decades, smaller only than a 2007 blaze that burned 26 square miles (67 square kilometers).

The Garden State Parkway, one of New Jersey's busiest highways, reopened Wednesday morning after officials closed a roughly 7-mile (12-kilometer) stretch in the southern part of the state.

Acting Gov. Tahesha Way declared a state of emergency early Wednesday as officials said they've contained about 50% of the wildfire.

Video released by the state agency overseeing the fire service showed billowing white and black clouds destroyed in the fire, while engulting pines and firestructure.



A fire burns on Tuesday near Waretown, N.J.

adelphia to the west and a severe drought until the Atlantic coast to the recently, when early spring east. The region, with its rains helped dampen the in peak forest fire season. The trees are still develof smoke, intense flames oping leaves, humidity remains low and winds can est floor. It's a vast wilderness in the country's most densely populated state. LaTourette, the DEP commissioner, said the fire is straddling an area on the edge of wilderness and residential areas.

quick-draining sandy soil, is region, but officials cau- in the car with me; can you

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order on January 21, hearing to be held on May 13, 2025, at 9

heightened the risk of fire.

The Jersey Central

Power and Light Company

cut power to about 25,000

customers at the request

of the Forest Fire Service

and the wildfire's command

post Tuesday evening. By

late Wednesday afternoon,

On Tuesday, Debi Schaf-

fer was caught in gridlocked

traffic after evacuating with

her two dogs while her hus-

band agreed to stay with

their 22 chickens, The Press

"I wanted to take them

of Atlantic City reported.

power had been restored.

tioned recent low humid- imagine 22 chickens in a ity and a dry stretch have car?" she told the newspaper.

> Around her Waretown house it was "like a war zone," she said, describing smoke, sirens and the buzz of helicopters.

The site of the fire is near an alpaca farm. The farm said in a Facebook post that the property wasn't threatened and all of the animals were safe.

The blaze is the second major forest fire in the region in less than a week.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 405 KAR 8:010, Section 16(5), the following is a summary of

12 structures remained fighters dousing a charred kick up, drying out the forthreatened Wednesday evening.

"This is still a very active fire," said Department of **Environmental Protection** Commissioner Shawn LaTourette. "As we continue to Barrens, a 1.1 million-acre get this under full control the expectation is that the and federally protected is unpopulated."

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, authorities said.

Forest fires are a common occurrence in the Pine (445,000-hectare) state number of acres will grow reserve about the size of the environment and develand will grow in a place that the Grand Canyon lying opment meet," he said. halfway between Phil-

"It's the interface where The area had been under Daylight Time, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, for Case No. 2024-00326. This is an examination of the Electronic 2024 Joint Integrated Resource Plan of Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company.

This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company 2701 Eastpoint Parkway Louisville, Kentucky 40223

permitting decisions made by the Department for Natural Resources. Division of Mine Permits with respect to applications to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations in Hopkins County.

WEBSTER COUNTY COAL LLC 8540231 MI 6

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.