

Weather from year’s past in our community

Weather is always in the news. Although in the past several years, it has really been a topic that seems to be discussed more regularly than it used to. It seems we have been in the center area of a lot of extreme weather, whether it's rain and flooding, sleet, snow or freezing temperatures.

Here is an interesting article about a tornado that went through a section of Crittenden County and some of the damage it caused on May 17, 1946. The article is from the Paducah Sun Democrat, May 19, 1946.

Tornado Starts Near Mexico

Crittenden Countians today were surveying the damage left late Friday afternoon in the wake of a tornado which swept across the county, causing thousands of dollars damage to farms, churches and industries, but causing no loss of life and few injuries.

The storm, which struck east of Fredonia near Mexico and traveled in a northeasterly direction toward the Ohio River, was accompanied by little rain but a terrific gale that ripped roofs off houses, blew down trees and cut communications lines, as well as swept houses off foundations.

The United States Steel and Coke Company plant in the Mexico/Frances area suffered probably the heaviest damage. The water tank was blown down, the scale house unroofed and other buildings shattered by the wind.

Mr. Weldon Hina, a chemist at the plant, while at work in his laboratory, watched the tornado's progress from a window. After leveling a large message board located between the office and the change house, it picked up a large dump truck and deposited it on top of a gravel pile.

Officials estimated that the damages exceeded \$2,000.

More Damage

A farm house belonging to Rube Franklin was lifted from its foundation and set down about 10 feet away.

A house belonging to R. W. Winters of near Frances was heavily damaged. A number of barns in the same area

were demolished.

Melville Rogers was reported to have suffered slight lacerations about the face and body. It was said Rogers was attempting to beat the storm to the home of his uncle near Frances. He and the storm arrived there about the same time. When he stepped from his automobile, it was reported Rogers was knocked flat by the wind, which rolled him against a fence.

At Mexico Cemetery, near the center of the storm's path, tombstones, estimated to weigh between 300 and 400 pounds, were lifted from their positions. One was reported to have been carried 20 feet by the strong blasts.

Clay Norman, another farmer of the Mexico area, said he surveyed the hill where the storm reportedly left the ground and found that the path of the wreckage stopped abruptly when it reached the crest of the incline.

The tornado vanished about two miles north of Mexico.

H.A. Towery, a Marion patrolman, said he saw the storm hit about 2 o'clock Friday afternoon. The "twister" was seen approaching Marion when it hit a high hill and split into two sections – one traveling north and the other south.

Two churches, Hebron on Hwy. North 91 and Freedom near Marion, were wrecked by the gale.

Others who saw the tornado reported that pieces of timber, some as long as 20 feet, were blowing around in the air.

Traffic on Highway 91 between Marion and Princeton was halted temporarily while trees and telephone poles were removed from the road.

At Marion, Deputy Sheriff Ray Wilson said persons in the affected area told him two black clouds appeared to go together and streak along the ground in a half-mile wide path.

Damage to timber in the Moore Hill section of Crittenden, three miles west of Marion, was estimated at \$3,000 by owners. In this area the storm swooped down and left a trail of damage



Freedom Church after it was damaged by a tornado.

about 300 yards wide for a considerable distance.

J. C. Catilla, farmer, said he saw the tornado vanish after passing up a hill. The tornado was plainly visible going up hill, he declared, but when it reached the top it just disappeared. Catilla said he could see what looked like whole trees, timbers and other wreckage swirling in the funnel as it swooped up the incline.

There were reports of damage at Shady Grove but property loss there apparently was not great.

Terrific Windstorm Strikes Community in 1923

From The Crittenden Press March 16, 1923, here are two interesting accounts of storms of yesteryear that hit our community. This wind storm damaged large areas of Crittenden County.

Marion, as well as the surrounding county was visited by a terrific gale Sunday night, March 11, 1923 carrying destruction in its wake but fortunately no lives were lost.

About 8:45, the wind whirled around from the east to southeast and a hurricane swooped down on the city wrecking the Electric Power House and plunging the town in total darkness.

While it was not a "twister," the wind came with such force as to wreck buildings, unroof dwellings and carry terror to the hearts of many citizens, who remembered the terrible tornado that passed through this county in 1890.

The wind was accompanied by lightening and thunder and a driving rain, which dashed against windows, shattering the glass in many. The storm lasted about 30 minutes, though the wind continued with less velocity through the night.

The power house near the I. C. station was wrecked. The roof was picked up by the wind and carried 200 yards away and the brick walls blown to the ground. John Travis, employed as electrician and Jas-

per Prowell were at work in the building when the storm came. Mr. Travis said a blot of lightning struck the building, knocking down the smokestack and making a hole through the brick wall through which the wind rushed, carrying away the roof and blowing down the walls.

Other damaged caused by the storm:

A tobacco barn on the farm of John A. Moore was blown down, his stable and chicken house wrecked and dairy barn damaged.

L. L. Hughes, Chapel Hill section, tobacco barn blown down.

James Stegar Gass, north of town, tobacco barn destroyed.

I. C. Truitt, and J. W.



Weldon Hina in his office at US Steel and Coke Co. He watched a tornado blow down buildings and pick up a dump truck and set it on a gravel pile.

Cook of Repton, barns blown down. Mrs. Lillie Walker, Weston, barn blown down.

W. C. Lynn, near Sheridan, barn destroyed. Leander White, View, dwelling damaged. J. W. Paris, stock barn demolished.

Frank Mathews, Frances, tobacco barn damaged. W. K. Oliver, stock barn wrecked.

Henry Brown, Shady Grove, residence destroyed, Wm. Alexander, Piney, dwelling damaged, Mrs. Sarah Ann Lamb, Deanwood, barn blown

down and Preston Lamb residence damaged. Howard Phillips, tobacco barn damaged.

These are just a few of the damaged property items that were accounted for in The Press.

We, in our lifetimes, have had several weather events that will one day be looked back on and remembered and talked about. They will be the topic of my favorite saying these days "do you remember when."

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

LAND AUCTION



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CRITTENDEN CO, KY

5/13/25 AT 3 PM

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Marion Baptist Church

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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.