

NEWS RELEASE

PSC's Hire Mississippi Goes Live with Hope for In-State Contractors

HireMississippi.com to be the primary portal for connecting Mississippi contractors with Mississippi utilities

Jackson, Mississippi (March 1, 2018) – After months of preparation, the Public Service Commission's Hire Mississippi program is now fully operational for use by Mississippi contractors. The rule, passed in August last year, requires aggressive notification and reporting by the state's rate-regulated, investor-owned utilities so that they can reach, and hopefully award contracts to, more Mississippi-based businesses.

The rule requires that utilities keep a Hire Mississippi List - a directory of all Mississippi contractors who wish to be notified of contracting opportunities with Mississippi's utilities. Mississippi contractors are urged to take advantage of the Hire Mississippi through the web at www.hiremississippi.com or by contacting the companies or the Commission.

The benefits of participating are:

- Mississippi contractors on the Hire Mississippi List will receive notification of all known upcoming bids for contracts over \$200,000 within the scope of goods or services they furnish.
- No Prime Contractor will be awarded a utility contract until they have consulted the Hire Mississippi List in awarding subcontracts.

-1 of 2-



for more information contact:

Commissioner Brandon Presley, Northern District: (800) 356-6428

Commissioner Cecil Brown, Central District: (800) 356- 6430

Commissioner Sam Britton, Southern District: (800) 356-6429

Hire Mississippi also requires:

- Utilities must publish quarterly notices in local newspapers to advertise the opportunity to be on the Hire Mississippi List, so that no one is left behind.
- Utilities must explain to Mississippi contractors the bidding process, qualifications, and other procedures for the awarding of contracts.
- Some large contracts must be broken up into separate, smaller-scoped contracts to accommodate more bids.
- In filings before the Commission, the utilities will be asked whether Mississippi companies were awarded contracts for each project. In the event an out-of-state firm is selected for a project, the company must explain that decision.

“I am sick and tired of seeing out of state vehicles on construction sites in my Mississippi when I know that Mississippians are footing the bill for those projects. I have zero doubt that MISSISSIPPI companies could be doing that at least some of that work if they were given the chance,” Chairman Brandon Presley said.

For more information about Hire Mississippi or to be added to the Hire Mississippi List, visit www.hiremississippi.com or call the Commission at (601) 961-5810.

-2 of 2-



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