

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Commissioner Brandon Presley
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NORTHERN DISTRICT

PSC Chair Presley: Perry Plan Unfair and Unnecessary

Presley Says Proposed DOE Subsidies Would Force Mississippians to Pay for Plants They Neither Need Nor Will Use

Jackson, Mississippi (October 23, 2017) - On Monday, Public Service Commission Chairman Brandon Presley blasted a plan announced by U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry to subsidize nuclear and coal generators in wholesale electric markets. Mississippi utilities Entergy and Spire participate in such a market, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, or MISO. Presley said that the move would result in Mississippi customers paying to prop up out-of-state power plants for electricity Mississippians neither need nor use. Perry's Department of Energy recently announced the new rules, believing that nuclear and coal plants are being prematurely shuttered across the country, though the Commission is not aware of any studies confirming that perception. Perry's plan would remove some of the authority from state regulators who are best positioned to evaluate which types of power plants should be running.

"We are looking at a situation in which Mississippians would be paying higher electric bills to prop up ageing plants in other states that they won't see one single watt of energy from. I am all for cheap energy such as coal and nuclear, but why don't we let the electricity markets decide when it's time for this or that plant to retire or which type of plant to dispatch? I seem to recall Secretary Perry being opposed to the same type of subsidies when Solyndra was in the news," Presley said.

The Commission will be filing comments opposing the move by DOE with the Federal Regulatory Energy Agency this week. For more information contact the PSC at 1-800-637-772 or visit www.psc.state.ms.us.



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