

June 24, 2020



**FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMISSIONER  
BRENT BAILEY  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE**



*The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.*

*Brent Bailey*

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## **Electric and Natural Gas Utilities File Annual Energy Efficiency Program Reports**

*"The Legislature hereby declares to be the policy of the State of Mississippi: To provide just and reasonable rates and charges for public utility services.....consistent with long-term management and conservation of energy resources by avoiding wasteful, uneconomic and inefficient uses of energy." (Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-2)*

**F**rom July 2013 to December 2019, the MPSC Rule 29 was titled [Conservation and Energy Efficiency Programs](#). The rule required all regulated electric and natural gas utilities to develop and implement customer-funded energy efficiency programs that provide a range of services, rebates, direct installs and technical assistance to residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Furthermore, all regulated electric and natural gas utilities were required to file an Annual Report outlining the performance of all energy efficiency programs by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Late in 2019, the previous Commission [chose to replace](#) the former Conservation and Energy Efficiency Programs Rule with the current [Integrated Resource Planning and Reporting Rule](#). The new rule creates a process for transparent, long-term utility energy resource planning as well as incorporates distributed energy resources and demand side management efforts (including energy efficiency). However, to maintain a continuous record of program activities, the Commission in January 2020 adopted an [Order](#) requiring regulated natural gas and electric utilities to continue filing by May 1<sup>st</sup> an Annual Report addressing the performance of their respective energy efficiency programs.

In the previous version of Rule 29, the Commission took up the challenge of implementing a regulatory framework that advanced the proper mix of programs and incentives that helped reduce energy use for participating customers and provide benefits for non-participants. Now, with the new Rule 29 in place, the Commission should not allow the important gains made in energy efficiency over the past five years to be reversed or lost. The Commission must keep energy efficiency as a policy of the State and drive positive results for consumers and for the energy efficiency business sector.

Under the previous Rule 29, utilities completed five full calendar years (2015-2019) of offering energy efficiency programs through the Quick Start portfolio. I have reviewed each of the Annual Reports and am providing you a summary of the programs' cumulative demand savings, energy savings, incentives paid and/or administration costs.



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**Entergy Mississippi, LLC (2014-UA-6)** – Entergy Mississippi, LLC (EML) serves approximately 451,000 customers in [45 of Mississippi's 82 counties](#). In 2019, EML spent \$10,185,891 on Quick Start program costs which is 16.4% more than the proposed budget of \$8,749,484, and is \$3,894,696 more than 2017 expenditures of \$6,291,195. In 2019, EML achieved total evaluated annual energy savings of 44,541,000 kWh, which is 6.38% more than program year 2018's net energy savings of 41,869,000 kWh.

Entergy MS Energy Efficiency Program Portfolio Summary			
Year	2017	2018	2019
Energy Savings (kWh)	25,316,000	41,869,000	44,541,000
Demand Savings (MW)	4.30	7.85	8.46
Program Measures	274,549	370,184	323,278
Program Year Budget	\$6,291,195	\$9,105,961	\$10,185,891

**2019 Program Notes:** 13,810 customers participated in the Residential Programs; over 6,400 READI assessments were performed. 901 entities participated in the Business Programs. Residential Programs created energy savings of 12,333,000 kWh; Business Programs created energy savings of 32,208,000 kWh. EML donated over 72,000 ENERGY STAR LED bulbs in 2019. EML introduced Marketplace in 2019 for online purchase of energy efficiency products and access to online coupons for appliances. Business and Small Business Solutions programs remain in high demand and exceeded budget and participant expectations in 2019.

To learn more about programs that will help you lower your **Entergy Mississippi** bills: [Entergy Residential Solutions](#); [Entergy Solutions Marketplace](#); [Entergy Small Business Solutions](#); [Entergy Solutions for Business](#); [ENERGY STAR Small Business](#); [ENERGY STAR Commercial](#)

**Mississippi Power Co. (2014-UN-10)** – Mississippi Power Company (MPCo) serves approximately [187,000 customers](#) in 23 of Mississippi's 82 counties. MPCo had a total of \$4,273,428 in Quick Start program expenses in 2019 (approved budget was \$3,825,107) representing 0.49% of annual revenues. In 2018, MPCo spent \$3,605,326. In 2019, MPCo achieved net annual energy savings of 21,536,165 kWh (representing 0.22% of annual energy sales), which is more than 2018 annual energy savings of 19,123,852 kWh.

Mississippi Power Co. Energy Efficiency Program Portfolio Summary			
Year	2017	2018	2019
Energy Savings (kWh)	18,333,258	19,123,852	21,536,165
Demand Savings (MW)	4.446	5.695	5.789
Program Participants	37,618	35,377	34,087
Program Year Budget	\$3,988,989	\$3,605,326	\$4,273,428

**2019 Program Notes:** Program portfolio spending exceeded the portfolio budget for the first time in 4 years. MPCo achieved 2,471,000 kWh more in energy savings than estimated. Customers reported a 94+% satisfaction rate for programs. Nearly 25,000 customers received 127,123 Home Energy Reports designed to educate and motivate recipients to improve energy efficiency in their homes. MS Power did not renew the contract with its program administrator and is reviewing program offerings for 2020.

To learn more about programs that will help you lower your **MS Power Co.** bills: [MS Power Residential Ways to Save](#); [Mississippi Power Energy Services](#); [MS Power Business Ways to Save](#)



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**Cooperative Energy (2014-UA-18)** – Cooperative Energy (CE) provides electrical power for [11 electric distribution cooperatives](#) who in turn serve approximately [427,000 customers](#) in 55 of Mississippi's 82 counties. Several distribution cooperatives do not meet the minimum customers (members) number required to implement energy efficiency programs under the previous Rule 29. For those cooperatives that do provide energy efficiency programs to their members, the net annual energy savings achieved as a ratio of program administration expenditures is a mixed bag. Some cooperatives with high program expenditures achieved relatively low annual energy savings. Meanwhile, some cooperatives with low program expenditures achieved relatively high annual energy savings. The way annual savings are calculated could be the culprit. Or, it could be the type of programs offered and utilized. The 11 distribution cooperatives collectively spent slightly more on energy efficiency programs in 2019 than in 2018.

**Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)** – TVA provides electrical power [to 14 municipal and 14 cooperatively owned utilities](#) located primarily in [the northern half of Mississippi](#). During 2018 and 2019, TVA shifted attention away from energy efficiency programs and drastically reduced overall spending on its energy efficiency program offerings. This reduction in spending is reflected in the lower amount of Net Annual Energy Savings achieved and incentives dispersed in its Mississippi service area. These reductions are also reflected in the reduction of savings realized by members of the electric cooperatives. Only six cooperatives typically report their energy efficiency portfolio performance.

TVA Mississippi EE Program Portfolio Summary			
Year	2017	2018	2019
Energy Savings (kWh)	39,839,188	34,616,011	985,897
Demand Savings (MW)	5,058	4,682	123
Program Installs	8,439	3,348	5,699
Incentives Paid	\$2,562,224	\$2,021,058	\$89,811

**Atmos Energy (2014-UN-17)** – Atmos Energy (Atmos) spent \$1,560,008 to achieve an annual energy savings of 752,420 therms in 2019. In 2018, Atmos spent \$1,483,731 to achieve an annual energy savings of 842,403 therms. Atmos' 2019 program costs represent 0.65% of annual revenues and energy savings represent 0.27% of annual energy sales.

Atmos Energy Quick Start EE Program Portfolio Summary			
Year	2017	2018	2019
Energy Savings (Therms)	706,409	842,403	752,420
Demand Savings (Therms)	2,390	4,506	12,854
Program Measures	10,093	16,467	17,657
Program Year Budget	\$1,305,788	\$1,483,731	\$1,560,008

**Program Notes:** Atmos Energy continues to increase its budget, program measures, and demand savings each program year.

To learn more about programs that will help you lower your Atmos Energy bills: [Mississippi SmartChoice Appliance Rebates](#).





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**CenterPoint Energy (2014-UA-7)** – CenterPoint Energy (CenterPoint) spent \$786,836 to achieve an annual energy savings of 205,540 therms in 2019. CenterPoint’s 2019 program costs represent 0.88% of annual revenues and energy savings represent 0.22% of annual energy sales. In 2018, CenterPoint spent \$811,788 to achieve an annual energy savings of 275,751 therms.

CenterPoint Conservation Improvement Program Portfolio Summary			
Year	2017	2018	2019
Energy Savings (Therms)	253,372	275,751	205,540
Demand Savings (Therms)	2,534	2,758	2,055
Program Participants	3,635	5,067	3,362
Program Year Budget	\$673,460	\$811,788	\$786,836

**Program Notes:** CenterPoint Energy’s actual program expenditures were 79% of projected programs budget. Furthermore, CenterPoint Energy’s EE programs achieved evaluated (actual) savings of 205,540 Therms, 57.7% of the savings goal.

To learn more about programs that will help you lower your **CenterPoint Energy** bills:

[Efficiency Programs & Rebates for Residential](#); [Efficiency Programs & Rebates for Business](#)

## 2019 Impact Summary

The investor-owned electric utilities’ energy efficiency programs helped customers reduce energy use by 66,077,165 kWh (a slight decrease from 68,633,594 kWh in 2018) and reduced peak demand by 14.249 MW. Natural gas utilities’ energy efficiency programs helped customers reduce energy use by 957,960 therms in 2019 (which is a reduction from the 1,100,154 therms saved in 2018) and reduced peak demand by 14,909 therms (which is a significant increase from 7,263 therms in 2018). While these figures may sound impressive, we could be doing so much more to reduce energy demand and increase savings all across the state of Mississippi as municipal utilities are not accounted for in the reporting. Furthermore, with the change in Rule 29 and the lack of a defined pathway for the implementation of comprehensive energy efficiency programs, Mississippians could be missing out on tremendous opportunities to reduce their monthly bills due to the lack of uniform educational, technical, infrastructural and financial assistance. Meanwhile, our aging housing stock is in need of expanded energy efficiency and weatherization programs.

The benefits of energy efficiency are numerous. Increasing the efficiency of how we use and produce our energy will:

- Lower energy bills for consumers and improve the competitiveness of businesses.
- Improve our state and national energy security.
  - Stabilize energy prices for consumers and base load generators.
  - Reduce the need for construction of new generation capacity.
  - Enhance electrical and natural gas system reliability.
  - Reduce air pollutants and other emissions.



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## Program Year 2019 Energy Efficiency Portfolio Statistics

Utility	Docket Number	Rule 29 Annual Report	Total Program Costs	Net Annual Energy Savings (kWh)	Demand Savings (MW)
Electric Utilities					
Entergy Mississippi	2014-UA-6	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$10,185,891	44,541,000	8.46
Mississippi Power Company	2014-UN-10	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$4,010,334	21,536,165	5.789
Cooperative Energy Association Members					
Coahoma Electric Power Association	<a href="#">2014-UA-18</a>	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$12,000	0	0
Coast Electric Power Association		<a href="#">Report</a>	\$398,042	6,355,000	1.082
Delta Electric Power Association		<a href="#">Report</a>	\$0	256,000	0.055
Dixie Electric Power Association		<a href="#">Report</a>	\$504,632	2,699,000	0.497
Magnolia Electric Power Association		<a href="#">Report</a>	\$73,080	1,159,000	0.266
Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association		<a href="#">Report</a>	\$164,797	676,000	0.190
Singing River Electric Power Association		<a href="#">Report</a>	\$520,766	1,016,000	0.202
Southern Pine Electric Power Association		<a href="#">Report</a>	\$488,450	473,000	0.140
Southwest Mississippi Electric Power Association		<a href="#">Report</a>	\$19,433	40,700	0.0059
Twin County Electric Power Association		<a href="#">Report</a>	\$11,235	0	0
Yazoo Valley Electric Power Association		<a href="#">Report</a>	\$2,500	0	0
Local Power Companies in Tennessee Valley Authority Distribution Area					
Central Electric Power Association	2014-UA-16	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$5,600*	23,109**	0.00367
East Mississippi Electric Power Association	2014-UA-5	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$137,184	25,000**	0.00286
4-County Electric Power Association	2014-UA-15	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$2,800*	162,660**	0.02595
Northcentral Mississippi Electric Power Association	2014-UA-13	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$4,150*	76,341**	0.00703
Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association	2014-UA-12	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$2,050*	51,735**	0.00495
Tombigbee Electric Power Association	2014-UA-14	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$14,200*	100,005**	0.0202
Natural Gas Utilities					
Utility			Total Program Costs	Energy Savings (Therms)	Demand Savings (Therms)
Atmos Energy	2014-UN-17	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$1,560,008	752,420	12,854
CenterPoint Energy	2014-UA-7	<a href="#">Report</a>	\$786,836	205,540	2,055

\*Represent incentive costs only

\*\*Represent estimated annual savings value



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## Last Week at the MPSC

- Annual Energy Efficiency Program Performance report was submitted by [Tallahatchie EPA](#).
- 4-County EPA filed its [Reply in Support of it's Motion to Proceed with Adjudication of Declaratory Opinion Based Upon Undisputed Fact that EML has Proceeded to Obtain Retail Power from MISO and Response in Opposition to Energy's Motion to Strike](#).
- Entergy Mississippi hosted their Initial IRP Public Workshop remotely, on June 22, 2020, at 2:00 pm. The virtual format allowed participants to log in, follow along with the presentation, and then ask questions during the presentation as well as afterward. To review the presentation: [EML IRP Presentation](#).
- Waste Water Solutions, LLC filed a [CPCN Application](#) to take over ownership and operation of a sewer system in Lauderdale County.
- Waste Water Solutions, LLC filed another [CPCN Application](#) to take over ownership and operation of sewer systems in Lauderdale, Rankin and Lamar Counties.
- Entergy MS [filed its Answer](#) to the City of Clinton's Dispute of Billing and Services.

## The MPSC at the Legislature

Both the House and Senate of the Legislature have passed and enrolled [SB 2386](#). This bill reauthorizes and amends the section of Mississippi Code ([Title 77](#)) that creates the Public Service Commission and prescribes its duties and powers. The section of code was amended to:

- Remove all motor carrier language from code. The PSC hasn't regulated motor carriers since 2004.
- Add language that would essentially allow electric utilities to treat all renewable energy power purchase agreements (PPAs) the same as non-renewable energy in rate base.
- Change the date the Commission must report fuel audits to the Legislature from January 15 to March 15 of each year.
- Extend the repeal date to July 1, 2024, the ability of the commission and the staff to hire consultants and attorneys for certain proceedings.
- Extends the code section repealer date until Dec. 31, 2024.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **20** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	9
Telecommunications	9
Water/Sewage	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **172** complaints from consumers against potential telemarketers through our no call app, website and mail-ins. The top three general issues reported by consumers are related to auto warranties, financial/loans/consolidated debts and health products/prescription drugs.

**We encourage consumers to file telemarketing complaints with the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.donotcall.gov/> in addition to filing complaints with the Mississippi Public Service Commission.**