

June 10, 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

.....

Securing Our Bulk Power System: An Opportunity for Mississippi?

The term “bulk-power system” generally refers to the facilities, equipment and control systems necessary for the reliable operation of an interconnected electric energy generation and transmission network. These can include items used in power generation stations, control rooms and substations, such as turbines, control systems, capacitors, transformers, circuit breakers, meters and more. To have a robust, reliable, resilient system, power companies must have unfettered access to these items.

Up until very recently, the power industry has relied on a vast global supply chain to provide this equipment. However, the global COVID-19 pandemic and increasing cybersecurity threats has highlighted the need for a more durable supply chain that is resistant to disruptions and can protect and provide critical infrastructure when needed.

On May 1, the President declared a national emergency and imposed new restrictions on the purchase and use of foreign-made equipment and technology used in the U.S. bulk-power system. The [Executive Order on Securing the United States Bulk-Power System](#) is aimed at addressing the threat that foreign adversaries could exploit potential vulnerabilities in the US electrical grid and create problems for end users.

Effective immediately, the order bars any company or individual under U.S. jurisdiction from buying, importing, transferring or installing bulk-power system electric equipment from entities that are owned in whole or in part by foreign governments or nationals if the federal government deems it a national security threat. Presumably, those foreign governments would include China, Russia, Iran and others. Chinese companies are key suppliers of U.S. power sector equipment.

So what does this potentially mean for Mississippi? Mississippi economic development leaders could take proactive measures to promote the transportation and logistical strengths of the state as well as advertise the various sites suitable for locating industrial-sized facilities capable of manufacturing bulk-power systems components here in the U.S. We can also begin now to ramp up workforce training to support these tech-based occupations as manufacturing returns. Mississippi would be an excellent location for a strategic reserve of U.S.-built, bulk-power system components.

Furthermore, just as we learned that not having an adequate emergency stockpile of medical protective gear puts frontline medical workers and the general public at risk, not having a strategic, domestic supply of key bulk-power system components at the ready makes the U.S. susceptible to cyberattacks and physical attacks intent on disrupting parts of our electric and natural gas supply network and subsequently crippling parts of our economy.



Continued...

Last Week at the PSC

- The Commission held its [Regular Docket Meeting](#) on June 9 at 10 am. The noticed [meeting](#) was held telephonically and was webcast. The Commission took action on the following items:
- Entergy Mississippi, LLC (2018-UN-205) – The Commission took action on Entergy MS’s annual revenue requirements under the Formula Rate Plan Rider (FRP-7) for calendar year 2020. Staff review of the [2020 Evaluation Report and 2019 Look Back Assessment](#) indicated a \$3.39/month increase beginning in April for the typical residential customer and with a \$0.06/month decrease beginning with the July billing cycle. The Commission approved the [Order](#) implementing the rate adjustment and [Stipulation](#).
- Entergy Mississippi, LLC (2020-UA-40) – The Commission took action on the [Petition for CPCN](#) for transmission infrastructure improvements along 16.8 miles of transmission line in Ranking and Scott Counties. Cost of the project is approximately \$15.6 million and will result in an impact of \$0.14/month for the typical residential customer. This is the fourth and final phase of work on this line. The Commission approved the [Order Granting CPCN](#).
- Grasshopper Group, LLC (2020-UA-12) – The Commission took action to approve the transfer of control of Logmein, Inc. subsidiary Grasshopper Group, LLC to Logan Parent, LLC. The Commission approved the [Order for Transfer](#).
- The Commission took action to refer two matters to Chairman Dane Maxwell for hearing and recommendation: [Order](#) referring Cane Creek Solar, LLC (2020-UA-058) located in Clarke County; [Order](#) referring Moonshot Solar, LLC (2020-UA-059) located in Hancock County.
- Other items: The Commission took action to renew/extend the contract for Sprint to continue providing landline caption services for the hearing impaired. The Commission also took action to confirm continuation of Katherine Collier as Executive Secretary of the Commission.

Filings Received by the MPSC

- Energy Mississippi, LLC was granted an [Order](#) to allow an extension of time to respond to and oppose the relief sought in 4- County's Motion to Proceed with Adjudication of Declaratory Opinion. Entergy MS, LLC then submitted its [Opposition to 4-County’s Motion to Proceed with Adjudication of Declaratory Opinion and Motion to Strike](#).
- Annual Energy Efficiency Program Portfolio Performance reports were submitted by [Northcentral Mississippi EPA](#), [4-County EPA](#), [Central EPA](#), and [Tombigbee EPA](#).



Continued...

- Southern Renewable Energy Association filed an **Informal Request** pertaining to preferred stakeholder engagement actions in reference to the planned Entergy MS, LLC IRP Stakeholder Workshop to be held on June 22 at 2 pm CT in the Commission Hearing Room.
- Atmos filed several reports marked CONFIDENTIAL due to commercially sensitive supplier gas cost information. These included the Notice of Spot Gas Rates, the Asset Management Monthly Report, and the Performance Based Rate (PBR) Mechanism Activity Report. Atmos also filed its monthly **Supply Hedges report** for the period ending May 31, 2020.
- Mississippi Power Co. was granted a **Second Order** granting them more time to submit a compliance rate schedule implementing revisions certain riders.
- Bay Springs Telephone, Bruce Telephone, Fulton Telephone, Mound Bayou, and BPM, Inc. d/b/a Noxapater Telephone file an **Appeal** against the MPSC in Jasper County Chancery Court in opposition to the changes made to Rule 28 (Rules Implementing the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act).
- DeltaCom, LLC, Windstream KDL, LLC, and Windstream NuVox, LLC (sellers) and Uniti Group Finance Inc. and Uniti National LLC (purchasers) filed a **Joint Petition** to transfer certain fiber optic assets from sellers to purchasers per a reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **31** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	14
Telecommunications	9
Water/Sewage	5
Natural Gas	3

Last week, the Central District received a total of **213** 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 insurance, credit cards and auto warranties.

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.