

August 12, 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

.....

Wind Energy: A Clean Energy Resource and Economic Driver for Communities

Wind energy achieved a major milestone in 2019 as it reached over 100,000 Megawatts (MW) of operating capacity in the U.S. That is enough wind power to meet the electricity needs of 32 million homes. Today, it is the largest source of renewable energy generating capacity in America. Wind accounted for more than 9.3% of total electricity generated in May 2020 alone. When combined with solar, hydropower, biomass and geothermal, renewable energy sources accounted for more than one-quarter (25.3%) of the nation's net electrical generation in [May 2020](#). That is an all-time high.

For the period [January-May 2020](#), wind-generated electricity grew by 11.5% as compared to the same period in 2019. Again, when combined with solar, hydropower, biomass and geothermal, renewable energy sources produced more electricity than both coal and nuclear during the first five months of 2020. Wind continues to prove itself to be a reliable, affordable energy resource.

American Wind Week

American Wind Week is an annual celebration of ways wind energy is powering a future fueled by clean electricity and contributing to a strong 21st century economy. Wind power is bringing jobs, new revenue, and opportunity to communities across the country. Now in its fourth year, American Wind Week is being celebrated during August 9-15, 2020.



**AMERICAN
WIND WEEK**
AUGUST 9-15, 2020
#WindBuildsTheFuture

To help the Central District commemorate American Wind Week, I asked [Governor Tate Reeves to issue a Proclamation](#) recognizing the billions invested by wind developers, the tens of thousands employed by the wind industry and the opportunities wind power provides in all 50 states. Governor Reeves obliged by recognizing the role of American Wind Week will have raising awareness of the many ways wind works for America, and how we all benefit from a cleaner energy portfolio and a stronger economy. I appreciate Governor Reeves for taking this action and understanding how wind development has delivered a range of benefits to communities across the country.

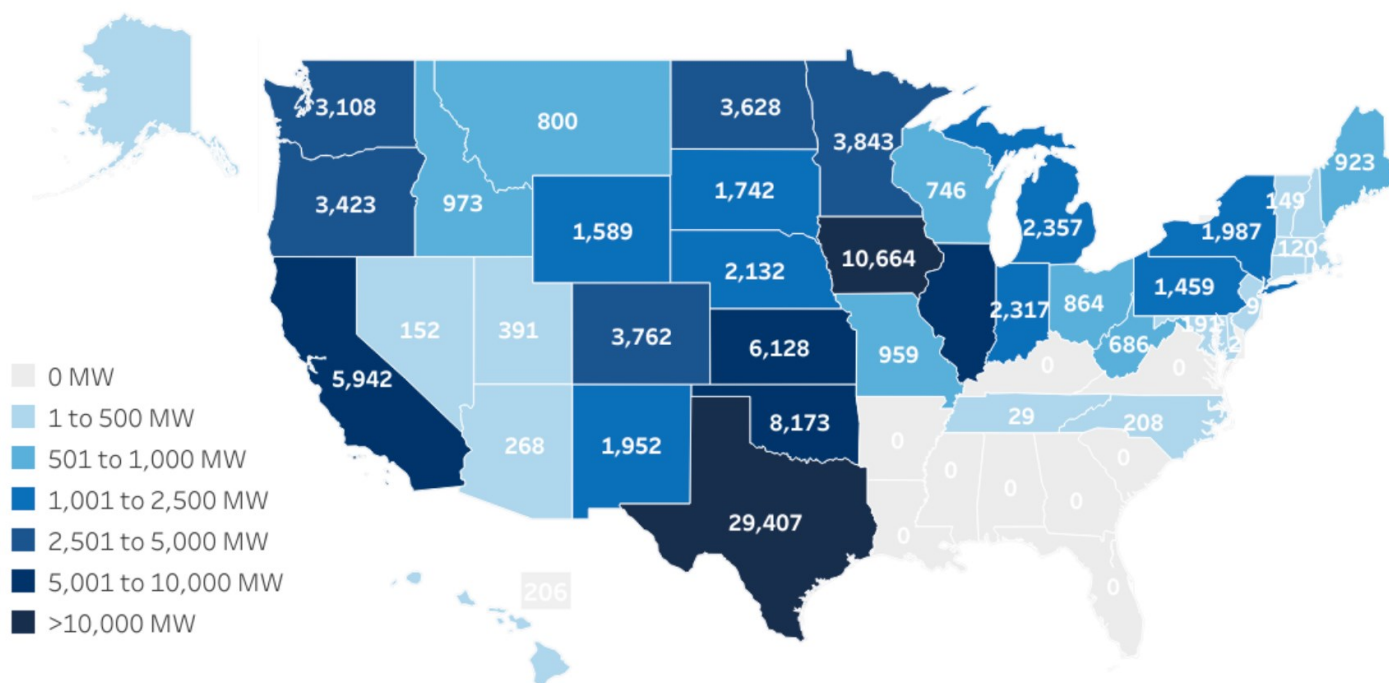


Continued...

Wind Power in Mississippi?

Other than a few backyard windmills, we don't have any large scale wind turbines that is seen in many other parts of the country. In fact, a study conducted by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in 2010 found "Mississippi was the only state to show no potential for wind energy." However, that study used a national dataset of estimated gross capacity factor at a spatial resolution of 200 meters and a turbine hub height of 80 meters above ground. Wind speeds increase with height and wind towers are getting taller. Today, the average turbine hub height is nearly 90 meters above the ground. But new onshore wind turbines could soon reach an average hub height of 115 meters or more. The tips of the turbine blades would nearly be as tall as the Washington Monument. These technological developments could even make Mississippi a destination for wind energy development - [especially in the Delta counties](#).

Wind Capacity by State



Source: [American Wind Energy Association](#)

DYK?

Texas has more installed wind capacity than any other state at 29,407 MW

While we may not currently produce wind energy in Mississippi, we do make components for wind turbines at [two manufacturing facilities](#) in the state. Those two factories are part of more than 530 U.S. factories building wind turbine parts, with a workforce of 120,000 strong that work to keep the lights on for millions of American families and businesses.

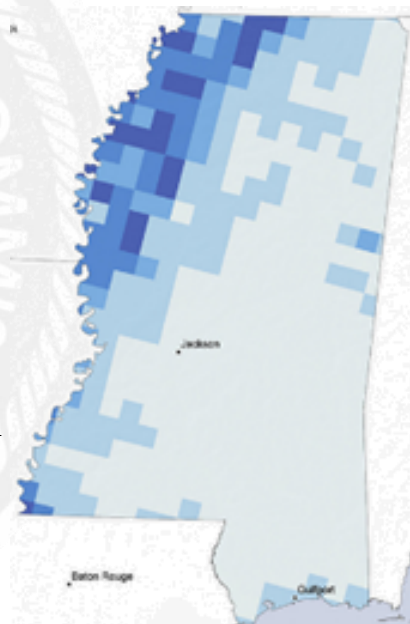


Continued...

DYK? *Iowa produced 41.9% of its electricity needs from wind power in 2019.*

You don't have to be a producer of wind energy to be a distributor and consumer of wind energy. Utilities accounted for 60% of wind power purchase activity in 2019. For example, Alabama Power has agreements with Chisholm View Wind Project in Oklahoma and Buffalo Dunes Wind Project in Kansas to purchase enough energy to power more than 100,000 homes. In 2016, Georgia Power began purchasing energy sourced from 250 MW of Oklahoma-based Blue Canyon wind farms. Even Cooperative Energy once floated a Request for Proposals for energy from wind resources with up to 250 MW of nameplate capacity.

Advanced wind turbine technology and reduced costs have now made wind energy economically feasible in certain areas of Mississippi. Even NREL estimates that [technically potential wind capacity](#) for Mississippi could top 115,000 MW. A wind project in Mississippi could provide beneficial economic development opportunities for local communities. Based on NREL models, developing 1000 MW of wind energy capacity in Mississippi could: Generate thousands of construction jobs; support approximately 124 operations jobs; and, produce millions in extra income to landowners who lease their land to developers. It is time to take a serious look at this homegrown energy opportunity. See more [facts about wind energy in the U.S.](#)



LAST WEEK at the MPSC

- ☞ The Commission granted a Certificate of public convenience for the engineering, ownership and operation of the [Moonshot](#) and [Cane Creek](#) Solar Projects.
- ☞ The Commission [approved a request](#) by the City of Greenville to increase its monthly sewer rates in its rate-jurisdictional Certificated Areas located beyond one-mile of the city limits.
- ☞ CenterPoint Energy tariff pages for its [Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Rider](#) was approved by MPUS.
- ☞ 4-County EPA filed its [Notice of Appeal](#) of the Commission's July 7, 2020 Order finding in support of Entergy Mississippi LLC's right to self-supply power to the Choctaw Generation Station.
- ☞ Spire Mississippi filed an [Amended Annual Energy Delivery Plan Schedule](#) that now proposes to submit plans for proposed energy efficiency programs by April 1, 2021.
- ☞ Mississippi Power Co. filed its proposed [Regulatory Tax Recovery Clause Assessment](#) (RTR-2) rates to be applied beginning in October 2020.



Continued...

- ✎ Entergy Mississippi filed its [Notice of Intent to Change Rates](#) that apply to the purchase of electricity from qualified cogeneration and small power production facilities under proposed [Schedule QF-19](#).
- ✎ TracFone Wireless, Inc. filed an [Informational Tariff](#) applicable to its Straight Talk® Lifeline Service option available to low income households in Mississippi.
- ✎ Atmos Energy filed its monthly [System Supply Hedge Report](#).
- ✎ Entergy Mississippi filed its [Notice to install](#) a new 115 kV transmission line to support and enhance reliability in Holmes County.
- ✎ Entergy Mississippi submitted its [Action Plan](#) responding to the recommendations outlined in the Fuel Audit Report covering the period from Oct. 2018 through Sept. 2019.
- ✎ The Commission issued an [Order](#) requiring the Pooling Administrator to satisfy Verizon's request for a One Thousand Block of telephone numbers in the Madison, Mississippi, rate center.
- ✎ The Commission adopted a [Scheduling Order](#) in the matter of the City of Clinton's complaint against Entergy Mississippi regarding certain billing and services.
- ✎ The Commission [Ordered](#) that the Attorney General's motion to intervene be granted in Mississippi Power Co.'s Integrated Resource Planning process.
- ✎ The Commission [Ordered](#) that the Attorney General's and the Sierra Club's motion to intervene be granted in Entergy Mississippi's Integrated Resource Planning process.
- ✎ Atmos Energy filed its monthly ["Spot Gas"](#) rates available for August 2020. The spot rate ranges from \$2.76 MMBtu to \$2.96 MMBtu.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **15** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	7
Telecommunications	4
Natural Gas	2
Water/Sewage	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **187** 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 financial loans/consolidate debt, health products/prescription drugs, and insurance.

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.