

August 26, 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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## ***Energy Academy Opens the Door to New Career Paths***

**E**nergy lies at the heart of the state, national and global economies. Energy moves cars, trucks and ships; cooks and freezes food; heats and cools our homes and workplaces; and powers industry and technology. Nothing is more central to economic growth than the availability of reliable, accessible, cost-effective energy resources. But the desire to create economic opportunities and provide a variety of affordable energy choices must be balanced with the responsibility to reduce and/or avoid adverse impacts to the environment. This responsibility should transcend political ideology and geography.

Nearly every day, we hear of pioneering research, innovative products, cutting-edge advancements, project groundbreakings, and novel policies in the energy sector. Because of these achievements, our lives are much better. But people use more energy than ever from a variety of sources and consumers' desire for sustainable energy resources will keep the pressure on to transform the energy sector. It will be key that the next generation of workers possess the skills necessary to supply a growing population accustomed to a high standard of living with affordable, reliable, sustainable energy resources.

This week, practically in the shadow of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Generating Station, I had the pleasure of participating in the grand opening of the Claiborne County Schools District Energy Academy



program in Port Gibson. The mission of the Energy Academy is "Building a Workforce Today That Can Meet

Tomorrow's Global Challenges." Twenty incoming 9th graders are enrolled in the inaugural class. Students who complete the program will not only graduate with their high-school diploma, but will also obtain a national energy certificate and college credits. The Vicksburg-Warren School District is scheduled to begin its own Energy Academy program in 2021.





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The state's energy industry provides reliable, stable, rewarding jobs and we need a skilled, locally-trained workforce to fill those career opportunities. The Energy Academy will provide students the opportunity to learn, explore and gain hands-on experience that will help meet our state's and nation's future energy needs.



The way energy is produced, generated, shipped, transmitted, distributed, conserved and stored continues to evolve. I believe Mississippi is primed for an energy revolution. To get there, Mississippi will need a workforce prepared to meet the challenges and demands of the 21st century energy economy. To meet those challenges and demands and to account for the projected personnel retirements across the energy industry spectrum, programs such as the

**Other News:** The Mississippi Development Authority is accepting grant applications for the 2020 Mississippi Industrial Energy Efficiency Program (MIEEP), made possible by \$530,000 in DOE State Energy Program funds. MIEEP assists industrial manufacturers with making energy efficiency upgrades to facilities to reduce energy consumption and operating costs. To view the funding opportunity announcement and see if your for-profit business qualifies, go to [bit.ly/314g6iT](https://bit.ly/314g6iT).

Energy Academy will help future workers learn the necessary skills and create a career path that could keep them in Mississippi and advance local communities' economy at the same time. I am proud to see these programs initiated in the Central District and look forward to watching the success of its students, and maybe even participating in a classroom session or two.



## LAST WEEK *at the* MPSC

- ☞ Entergy Mississippi submitted its [Quarterly Report](#) for 2Q 2020 detailing Entergy Corp.'s consolidated total of assets, revenues, employees, and O&M expenses.
- ☞ Sierra Club filed a [1<sup>st</sup>](#) and [4<sup>th</sup>](#) set of data requests to MS Power Co. in regards to its [Reserve Margin Plan filing](#). The Reserve Margin Plan evaluates the resources available to meet current energy and capacity needs among other matters.
- ☞ The MPSC retired the following dockets subject to reinstatement at the request of the applicants: [2014-AD-197](#) and [2015-UA-101](#).
- ☞ Russell Utilities and Toomsuba Water System filed a [Joint Petition](#) to transfer 6 customers currently served by Toomsuba Water to Russell Utilities' certificated area in Lauderdale County.
- ☞ Oakview Utility Company filed its [Notice to Customers](#) to the households of the Rowan Oak Subdivision informing them that billing for sewer service will commence on September 1, 2020.



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*The next Regular Docket Meeting of the MPSC is Tuesday, September 1, 2020. The meeting will be held **telephonically** at 10:00 am in the Commission Hearing Room in the Woolfolk State Office Building. The meeting will also be streamed live on the **MPSC Webcast link**.*



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **26** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	<b>8</b>
Telecommunications	<b>8</b>
Water/Sewage	<b>10</b>

Last week, the Central District received a total of **181** 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.**

Additionally, below is a list of the companies that have been sent a Notice of Alleged Violation of the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act (Miss. Code Ann. 77-3-701, et seq.) in August 2020.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| * Wintek USA, LLC                       | * Smart Funnel, LLC                 |
| * Nthrive Reimbursement Management, LLC | * National Brokers of America, Inc. |
| * MH Sub I, LLC                         | * Citizen's Disability, LLC         |
| * Inside Response LLC                   | * Firstsource Solutions USA, LLC    |
|   | * Simple SIP Solutions, LLC         |

These companies represent 287 complaints, approximately 574 alleged violations, and a potential \$5,460,000 in fines.

The Commission settled one case in August 2020, MPSC v. Vehicle Protection Specialists, for an undisclosed fine.