

September 23, 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*



## **National Clean Energy Week Spotlights the Value of Clean Energy**

Using clean energy and related technologies is one of the most important things you can do to help reduce industrial pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, studies are finding increased rates of COVID-19 in areas of high air pollution exposure. The clean energy economy is the next frontier of growing our economy, positioning the U.S. as an exporter of innovative technologies, and improving environmental conditions and public health.

**September 21-25, 2020**, is designated as **National Clean Energy Week** (NCEW). Now in its fourth year, NCEW chose **"Clean Energy Solutions for a Stronger America"** to help highlight the strength of the clean energy sector and its contributions to building a stronger nation. Throughout the week, clean energy leaders celebrate the latest in clean energy policy, technologies, innovators, applications, investors and more. As the nation embarks on an economic recovery and works to defeat COVID-19, clean energy initiatives can help address our need for abundant, reliable, affordable energy while providing an array of benefits for homeowners and businesses across America, including Mississippi.

Clean energy provides a wide range of benefits to people, the economy and to the planet. Domestic, clean energy resources provide fuel diversification which enhances energy security and reduces the need for imported fuels. Clean, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, hydropower and geothermal do not entail fuel costs or require transport of fuel feedstocks. Avoiding fuel needs provides greater price stability and reduces price volatility. Clean energy systems create consumer savings, new jobs, and new local tax revenues and income to rural landowners. Furthermore, the development of innovative, clean energy sources drives significant capital investments, many times in areas that are in need of an economic boost. Clean energy also helps to enhance public health by reducing emissions of particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and heavy metals such as mercury that create illnesses. Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons, are associated with climate change. Clean energy can reduce emissions of these gases. How clean energy technologies are scaled provides choices for consumers and allows them options for powering homes and businesses.

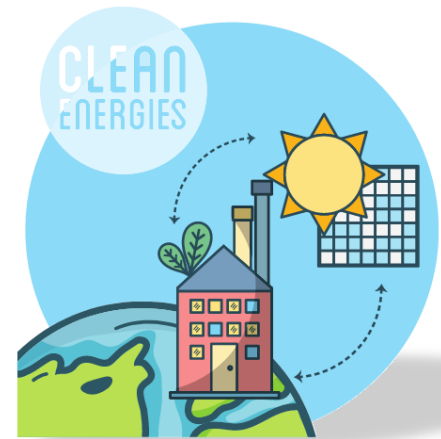




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NCEW provides consumers the opportunity to learn about diverse energy sources and technology applications. Beyond the traditional renewable energy sources, the clean energy sector also encompasses energy efficiency, energy storage, transmission grid enhancements, electric vehicles and carbon capture technologies. In addition, nuclear, natural gas, biomass/biogas, propane and waste-to-energy are generally included in the clean energy sector due to their ability to produce energy while emitting no or low greenhouse gases or eliminating other waste streams.

NCEW is also an opportunity for companies and corporations to make bold announcements regarding clean energy or emission reduction goals. For example, Walmart just [announced](#) that it will eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from its global operations by 2040 by securing renewable energy and electrifying its transportation fleet. Walmart



is Mississippi's largest private sector employer. Mississippi Power Company's parent, Southern Company, released a [new report](#) on its progress and plans toward the company's goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To achieve the net zero goal, the company will pursue a diverse energy resource portfolio to include low-carbon and carbon-free resources, negative carbon solutions and energy efficiency resources.

## SOLAR ENERGY IN MISSISSIPPI

**"According to research from UT-Austin, Mississippi has 119 sites within highway and interstate right-of-way sites that represent 552.6 GWh of solar production potential per year, which is equivalent to an electricity value of more than \$57 million per year. Instead of constantly using energy to keep the right-of-ways cut and trimmed, install solar and capture the energy from the sun."**

can mean different things to different people in different parts of the U.S. While nuclear can produce large amounts of energy without the pollution associated with coal and other fossil fuels, questions around the fate of nuclear waste remain unresolved. Natural gas certainly burns cleaner than other fossil fuels, but the waste streams and groundwater impacts associated with hydraulic fracturing give certain clean energy advocates pause. Even the rare-earth materials used in the most popular energy storage systems (lithium-ion batteries) require mining in sensitive areas of the world. Every energy resource has its pros and cons, costs and benefits. But we must all work together to plan, develop and deploy an energy portfolio that will provide the greatest economic and societal benefits with the least adverse impacts to our natural world. The choices made today can have effects for generations.





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## Highlights from the September 22 Special Meeting

- ☑ The MPSC convened a [special meeting](#) on September 22, 2020, to consider various items of importance:
- ☑ The Commission approved a [Joint Stipulation](#) between the Public Utility Staff and CenterPoint Energy that provides CenterPoint Energy an adjusted revenue of \$1,630,628. The adjustment results in a monthly rate increase of \$0.79 on an average residential customer's bill.
- ☑ The Commission [approved](#) CenterPoint Energy's Supplemental Growth Rider (SGR) for the 12-months ending December 31, 2019. Because no new projects were commenced in 2019, the rate impact is a decrease of \$0.11 for a residential customer's monthly bill.
- ☑ All the items on the Telecommunications Agenda (Eligible Telecommunication Carriers state recertification) and Item #7 on the Administrative Agenda were tabled until Monday, September 28 at 10 am.
- ☑ The Commission [granted](#) a Supplemental CPCN to Highway 30 West Water Assoc. and issued an [Order](#) approving the sale and transfer of a CPCN to Benton Environmental, Inc. from Ridge Lakes Utility LLC.
- ☑ The Commission adopted a Proclamation recognizing the benefits of energy efficiency programs and technologies and declaring October 7 as Energy Efficiency Day.
- ☑ The Commission [Ordered](#) Brent Bailey as hearing examiner for an investigation into the town of Edwards compliance with the Public Utility Act.
- ☑ The Commission adopted an [Order](#) initiating an investigation into the cause of sinkholes impacting utilities in Hidden Hills in Rankin County. This matter was [Ordered](#) referred to Brent Bailey for hearing, report, and recommendation.
- ☑ A [Request for Cancellation](#) of CPCN by Operator Service Company was granted. A [Request for Cancellation](#) of CPCN by Legacy Long Distance International, Inc. was granted.



## Last week at the MPSC

- ☐ The Commission issued a [Suspension Order](#) to allow further investigation of MS Power Co.'s Notice of Intent to Establish the LED Lighting Service Rate Schedule.
- ☐ Representative for the Town of Flora [responded](#) to the Public Utilities Staff's letter requesting more info regarding sewer service to the Andover area of Madison County.
- ☐ Russell Utilities, Inc. provided [additional information](#) to the Commission in support of its effort to acquire customers currently served by Toomsba Water System, Inc.





## Other News

Last week, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved [Order 2222](#), enabling distributed energy resource (DER) aggregators to compete in all regional organized wholesale electric markets. DERs range from energy storage systems and intermitted generation (such as solar) to distributed generation, demand response, energy efficiency, electric vehicles and more. This new rule will expand the ability to harness the full potential of these energy resources and meet America's ever-evolving energy demands. Under Order 2222, regional grid operators must establish aggregated DER tariffs and allow aggregators to register DERs under one or more market participation models. FERC commissioners anticipate enhanced grid reliability, expanded competition and reduce energy costs for consumers. This office will be reviewing any actions that the MPSC may need to take at the state level to facilitate DER aggregators entry into these regional markets while also protecting consumer interests and avoiding any duplication of incentives. Learn more about Order 2222 at the [FERC Fact Sheet](#).



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **29** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	<b>11</b>
Telecommunications	<b>13</b>
Water/Sewage	<b>5</b>

Last week, the Central District received a total of **278** 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/consolidating debt, health products/prescription drugs, and insurance.

The Commission has been receiving complaints regarding the recent "phishing" text scams recently reported on by the Federal Trade Commission. Consumers get a text message saying that there's a package waiting for them, and asking them to click a link to learn more. Once you click, they can trick you into giving personal information — letting scammers steal your passwords, account numbers, or Social Security numbers. Clicking these links could also let scammers download malware onto your device. Learn more about this phishing scam and how these schemes work: [https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/09/heard-about-waiting-package-phishing-scam?utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/09/heard-about-waiting-package-phishing-scam?utm_source=govdelivery).

Thomas, we came across a parcel from March pending for you. Kindly claim ownership and schedule for deliver here:

**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.**