

October 28, 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*



## **Imagine A Day Without Water**



### **COMMUNICATING THE VALUE OF WATER**

**W**hat would your day be like if you couldn't turn on the tap and get clean drinking water? Or if you couldn't flush the toilet? What would happen to restaurants, hospitals, firefighters, farms or the hundreds of industries that depend on water? For two and a half days beginning on May 12 of this year, thousands of customers in downtown Meridian, MS, experienced life without water. A damaged water main caused businesses, restaurants and government buildings to close, hospitals to function in emergency operations mode, and residents seek out other sources of water. All during the COVID-19 pandemic!

Ongoing access to clean and safe water is critical to our economy, health and way of life. Millions of Americans take water service for granted. You turn on the tap and clean water flows out. Flush the toilet and dirty water goes away.

Last week on October 21, [The Value of Water Campaign](#) along with a thousand organizations nationwide, raised awareness about the sixth annual [Imagine a Day Without Water](#). It was a day to pause and observe the way potable water impact our lives and communities and to talk about how water is important to us. Over the past five years, this campaign has provided a platform for educating the public and advocating for leaders to prioritize investments in water infrastructure so no American will have to imagine a day without water.

Our country continues to face an enormous public health crisis from the coronavirus pandemic. This crisis exemplifies the critical role that water and wastewater systems play in communities protecting public health, safeguarding the environment, and making a healthy economy possible. It is easy to imagine how much worse the pandemic could have been without widespread access to safe, clean water. Without access to reliable drinking water and sanitation, Mississippians would be unable to stay safe and limit the spread of coronavirus. Washing our hands regularly is one of the most important steps to take to limit the spread of coronavirus,

We rarely stop to think about the fresh water sources, impressive infrastructure and treatment systems required to make sure clean water comes out when you open the tap. One of my [previous newsletters](#) focused on the importance of fresh water in Mississippi and the role of the various agencies that have a hand in seeing it is safely delivered to your faucet.

**Imagine a Day  
Without Water**  
October 21, 2020

#ValueWater



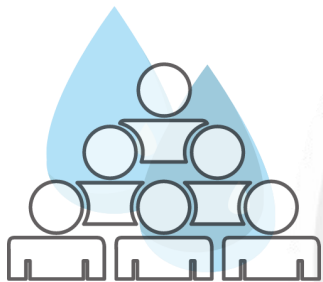


Continued...

## MRWA APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Mississippi Public Service Commission works on a daily basis with utilities all across the state - including the 1,244 certified water operators and the 721 certified wastewater operators - to ensure that customers have access to reliable, affordable services.

These certified water and wastewater operators work every day to make certain that the public has access to clean, affordable water and that collected wastewater is treated properly and returned back to the environment. However, a crisis is coming within the next decade. Anywhere from 30 to 50% of all certified operators will be eligible for retirement and there are not enough new people coming into these career fields.



The Mississippi Rural Water Association has worked to create an apprenticeship program to help address the needs of our water and wastewater utilities. This program is an excellent tool to help contribute to the growing need for skilled technicians in this industry sector and ensure the ongoing operation of critical services in our state. Furthermore, the program provides job opportunities which will allow Mississippians to live and work in their communities. We encourage you to learn more about the apprenticeship program by visiting [msrwa.org](http://msrwa.org).

## AMERICA'S WATER SECTOR WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

On October 5, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [announced](#) their next step in the creation of the [America's Water Sector Workforce Initiative](#) in an effort to help address workforce challenges that are facing America's drinking water and wastewater utilities. Working with federal agencies and state, local, and tribal partners, the America's Water Sector Workforce Initiative highlights the vital work of the water workforce and serves as a catalyst to encourage the choice of water careers through education and public outreach.

The Initiative includes three goals: provide federal leadership to create national momentum and coordinate efforts; partner to build the water workforce of the future; and bolster education and outreach to make water a career of choice. I applaud the EPA's commitment to ensuring that our water workforce is prepared to help meet 21st century water demands and that Americans can continue relying on safe drinking water and vital wastewater services that protect public health and the environment.

## OTHER NEWS

The United States Department of Agriculture [announced](#) on October 27 they are investing \$891 million funded through the [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program](#) to modernize rural drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in 43 states. These 220 projects will help improve rural water infrastructure for 787,000 residents. In the Central District of Mississippi, four utilities are receiving funds:



[South Central Water Association, Inc. in Hinds County](#) is being rewarded a loan of \$13,904,000 to be used to drill a 3,000-gallon-per-minute well, an elevated tank, distribution improvements, and construction of a shop.

[Hermanville Community Water Association Inc. in Claiborne County](#) is being rewarded a loan of \$128,000 and a grant of \$383,000 to be used to upgrade water lines, install automatic meter-reading systems, replace all water meters, and install a backup generator. Funds will also be used to install automatic transfer switches at well sites, replace chlorination equipment, and install a new supervisory control and data acquisition and system. These improvements will benefit 1,084 residents.

[Delta City Utility District # 2 in Sharkey County](#) is being rewarded a loan of \$73,000 and a grant of \$208,000 to be used to install approximately 44,000 linear feet of polyvinyl chloride pipe water mains to serve 12 new rural residents. The funds will also be used to upgrade the east end of the distribution system, which serves approximately 20 residents. The improvements will also resolve low water pressure issues in the current system, which serves 323 people.



# FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



## Continued...

The *Sebastopol Water Association in Leake and Scott Counties* is being rewarded a loan of \$2,740,000 to be used to drill a 500-gallon-per-minute well, a 380,000-gallon elevated tank, a 435,000-gallon ground storage tank, and distribution improvements.

*Congratulations to all of those water utility companies and associations in Mississippi who are receiving funds to improve their water infrastructure!*

## LAST WEEK at the MPSC

- The MPSC issued an [Order](#) approving CenterPoint Energy's revised Rate Regulation Adjustment Rider tariff. Centerpoint Energy also received approval from the MPSC via [Order](#) for a revision to its Supplemental Growth Rider tariff. These filings were ordered by the MPSC on 9/22/20.
- The MPSC Hearing Examiner issued an [Order](#) rescinding the Town of Edwards requirement to file a Sewer CPCN or Sewer Rate Schedule regarding the Town of Edwards Compliance with the Public Utility Act.
- Entergy Mississippi, LLC filed an [Errata to Direct Testimony](#) regarding the notice of intent of Entergy to implement economic development rider schedule ED-4. Correction changes the proposed Net Monthly Incentive Credit to \$0.01/kWh
- Entergy Mississippi, LLC submitted [Attachment K](#) to provide for the realignment of Demand Side Management cost recovery from Entergy Mississippi's Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Rider Schedule to the Company's Formula Rate Plan.
- Delta Electric Power Association filed a [letter](#) requesting they be removed from the docket regarding the potential discontinuance of the wholesale power supply by the Municipal Energy Agency of Mississippi to the City of Itta Bena Municipal Electric Utility.
- Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC has filed a [petition for CPCN and approval for the sale and transfer](#) of nine water systems in Adams, Forrest, Harrison, Lafayette, Panola, Tate and Yalobusha Counties. The City of Natchez and Natchez Water Works filed a [Motion](#) to Intervene in Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC's petition to acquire certain assets of Oakland Water Works LLC in Adams County.
- Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC has filed a [petition for CPCN and approval for the sale and transfer](#) of 35 wastewater systems in Adams, DeSoto, Forrest, Hinds, Lafayette, Lamar, Lauderdale, Tate and Warren Counties.
- Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC has filed petitions to acquire the assets of the following wastewater systems: [Cedar Lane System in Adams County](#); [The Business Park System in Lamar County](#); [Camden Place System in Warren County](#); [Pine Woods System in Warren County](#); [Pecan Village System in Warren County](#); [Leland Pointe System in Warren County](#); [Center Hill System in DeSoto County](#); [Evening Shade System in Desoto County](#).

The monthly docket meeting of the Mississippi Public Service Commission will take place on Wednesday, November 4 at 10 a.m. This meeting will take place telephonically with streaming broadcast over the MPSC YouTube channel at <https://www.psc.ms.gov/webcast>. The meeting notice is now available and the agenda will soon be available at [www.psc.ms.gov](http://www.psc.ms.gov).

NOVEMBER  
4

Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC has filed Notice of Intent to Establish Initial and Temporary Rates for the following wastewater systems: [Evening Shade System](#); [Center Hill System](#); [Leland Pointe System](#); [Pine Woods System](#); [Pecan Village System](#); [Cedar Lane System](#); [Business Park System](#); [Camden Place System](#); [The Trace Subdivision](#).

Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **17** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	9
Telecommunications	4
Water/Sewage	4

Last week, the Central District received a total of **225** 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 warranty, financial/loans/consolidate 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.**