

October 7, 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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Join the MPSC in Celebrating Energy Efficiency Day!

Today marks [Mississippi's 1st Annual Energy Efficiency Day](#). While this is the 5th annual celebration as Energy Efficiency Day nationwide, *I recently signed a [proclamation](#) declaring October 7, 2020 as Energy Efficiency Day in the State of Mississippi.* I urge you to join us in celebrating and supporting our clean energy goals and moving toward more energy efficiency now and in the future.

Smarter energy use means we don't have to generate as much power to meet our needs. U.S. electricity use has remained constant in recent years even as the economy grew, thanks to energy efficiency. Since 1990, savings from energy efficiency gains have averted the need to build 313 large power plants and has delivered cumulative savings of nearly \$790 billion for Americans. By taking aggressive, but reasonable actions, we could do even more.

I have used this space in my weekly newsletter numerous times to report how you can take advantage of and utilize energy efficiency measures to save money, reduce energy and water waste, improve productivity, increase indoor comfort, and cut air pollution emissions. Check out some of my past newsletters to get a better understanding of the awesome impact of [energy efficiency](#), [take steps to save money while protecting your family during the pandemic](#), learn about the [efficiency programs offered by electric and natural gas utilities](#), and [ways to relieve high energy burdens on our most at-risk households through energy efficiency and weatherization](#). I have also explored [how energy efficiency is a job creator in Mississippi](#).

While this office will report year-round and highlight the ways that various homes, businesses, universities, industries and others practice energy efficiency in the state, I ask you to use this day, October 7, to make a pledge to take one action to make your home or workspace healthier, safer and more comfortable. Energy efficiency continues to be the cheapest, quickest, and cleanest way to meet future energy needs and reduce your utility bills while also being an economic engine. Thank you for joining me and the Mississippi Public Service Commission in celebrating Energy Efficiency Day and recognizing the full value that energy efficiency contributes to our daily lives.





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Matt Davidson, Vice President-Rates & Regulatory Affairs of Atmos Energy Atmos Energy Corporation-Mississippi Division, accepts the award on behalf of Atmos Energy.

2019 “Hire Mississippi Champion”

The MPSC recognized Atmos Energy as a 2019 Hire Mississippi Champion and issued a [Resolution](#) recognizing *Atmos Energy* for achieving the mark of awarding 100% of its contracts to resident contractors during the 2019 reporting period. The MPSC held a press event on October 6 to present the Mississippi Champion Certificate. The Hire Mississippi Rule was designed to increase Mississippian’s access to utility contracts, create a more transparent and open bid process, boost economic development and increase employment in the state.



Other Actions at the MPSC

☑ Mississippi Power Co. (MPCo.) [filed to establish](#) the [Power Limited Unmetered Electric Service Rate \(PLUM\) Schedule](#). The PLUM rate provides electric service to devices attached to utility poles that have such low power requirements that the cost of installing metering equipment would add significant costs relative to the amount of energy being delivered. The new rate went into effect on October 2, 2020.

☑ MPCo. filed a [Notice of Intent](#) to discontinue its Swimming Pool Heating (SPH) Rider. Historically, only 8 customers utilized the [SPH rate](#). New residential seasonal pricing rates now provide slightly better savings. The discontinuation of the SPH Rider went into effect on October 2, 2020.



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- ❑ MPCo. filed a [Notice of Intent](#) to amend their Formulary Facilities Charge Rate Schedule (FFC). The FFC is often used where a customer takes electric service at a single delivery point but may need to distribute power throughout the customer's site to multiple buildings or locations. MPCo. will remove the up-front payment option of the FFC's Capital Recovery Charge available to all customers and limit availability to Governmental entities only in certain situations. The change went into effect on October 2, 2020.
- ❑ Entergy MS is required to file an [annual adjustment](#) to its Middle South Energy (MSE) riders. MSE-3 provides for Entergy MS's recovery of allocated share of Grand Gulf Nuclear Station costs. MSE-4 recovers the projected level of System Energy Resource, Inc.'s demand charges for the succeeding fiscal year. Both riders are approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (which has rate jurisdiction for Grand Gulf) and do not require MPSC confirmation to become effective. An increase in the MSE-3 and MSE-4 factors will result in an increase of \$1.08 on an average Entergy MS residential customer's bill. The new rate became effective for October 2020 billings.



Highlights from the October 6 [Docket Meeting](#)

- ❑ Atmos Energy filed with the Commission its Stable/Rate Annual Evaluation for the 12 Months Ending March 31, 2020. Atmos Energy and the MS Public Utilities Staff (MPUS) stipulated and agreed to a resolution of certain issues relative to the evaluation of Atmos Energy's filing. The [Stipulation](#) results in an increase of \$1.49 per month on an average residential bill. The Commission [approved](#) the Stipulation.
- ❑ Atmos also filed with the Commission its Proposed Capital Budget for FY2021 under its System Integrity Rider. Atmos and the MPUS entered into a joint stipulation that provides an increase of \$2.76 per month for an Atmos average residential customer. The Commission [approved](#) the Stipulation. The MPUS also retained consultants to review the System Integrity Rider filings and the consultants made notable recommendations. Atmos will file a response to the recommendations within 30 days.
- ❑ Entergy MS filed a request to establish a regulatory asset to amortize the expense portion of qualified pension settlement charges. The Commission [approved an Order](#) granting Entergy MS's request along with certain ratepayer protections utilized in other jurisdictions.
- ❑ Entergy MS filed for approval to revise its avoided costs rates under Schedule QF-19. The proposed new rate of 2.728 cents (\$0.02728) per kWh is 0.504 cents lower than the previous QF-18 rate of 3.232 cents (\$0.03232) per kWh. A change in avoided costs rates also impacts the amounts paid to net metering customers. The Commission [approved an Order](#) accepting the new Schedule QF-19 rates.
- ❑ The Commission [approved an Order](#) referring the water CPCN for the Town of Edwards to Commissioner Bailey for hearing, report and recommendation.
- ❑ The Commission [approved an Order](#) establishing a docket to monitor the provision of electric service in and around Itta Bena, MS and to refer the matter to Commissioner Presley.
- ❑ The Commission agreed to move forward with the development of a future Order that aims to increase the transparency and information associated with the annual ETC designation process.



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Last week at the MPSC

- ☑ The Commission [Ordered](#) that it would issue a Declaratory Opinion in the matter of NEMEPA and City of Oxford.
- ☑ Calhoun City Telephone Company filed a [Notice of Deregulation](#) in accordance with MS Code Ann. Sect. 77-3-35(4) to take effect November 1, 2020. A [Notice to Customers](#) was attached to the filing.
- ☑ Myrtle Telephone Company filed a [Notice of Deregulation](#) in accordance with MS Code Ann. Sect. 77-3-35(4) to take effect November 1, 2020. A [Notice to Customers](#) was attached to the filing.
- ☑ Southeast Mississippi Telephone Company filed a [Notice of Deregulation](#) in accordance with MS Code Ann. Sect. 77-3-35(4) to take effect November 1, 2020. A [Notice to Customers](#) was attached to the filing.
- ☑ Spire Mississippi filed a [Request to Amend](#) its Natural Gas Expansion and Rural Economic Development Initiative Application to address comments expressed by the MPUS and MPSC. The Hearing Examiner granted an [Order](#) approving the Request to Amend.
- ☑ The MPSC issued an [Order Setting a Telephonic Prehearing Status Conference](#) for October 13, 2020 at 10:00 am so that the Town of Edwards, MS may present an update on matters specific to its water CPCN.

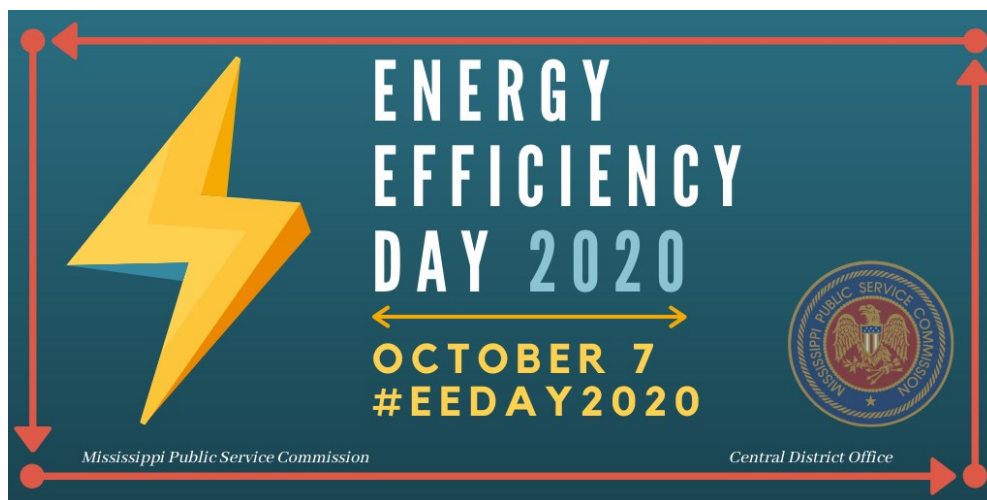


CONSUMER NEWS

certain restrictions and requirements when making calls to wireless numbers. The FCC is seeking to implement measures to protect customers' interests without preventing calls that consumers want or need, especially in emergency situations. Last year, Congress [enacted the TRACED Act](#) to further aid the American public by helping to reduce illegal and unwanted robocalls.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) to implement parts of the TRACED Act. Specifically, the FCC seeks to ensure that telemarketers abide by





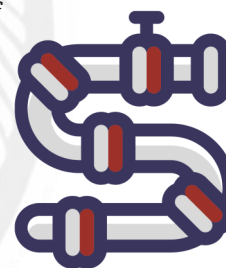
Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **23** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	9
Telecommunications	7
Water/Sewage	5
Natural Gas	2

Our Pipeline Safety Division completed **9** construction inspections in the Central District during the month of September.

The total amount of construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of September is approximately **\$460,000**.

“Reporting of Construction Work”- The rule is found in Chapter 57.1: All Construction work involving gas facilities in which the estimated cost of proposed facilities is in excess of eight thousand dollars are related facilities that would be governed by the Federal Minimum Safety Requirements, will be reported in writing, or via telephone to the MS Public Service Commission prior to starting date of such construction. (There are exceptions for emergencies.)



The Commission encourages all intra-state natural gas operators to comply with the rule.

Last week, the Central District received a total of **237** 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.

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.