

October 21, 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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Celebrating Careers in Energy and the Many Forms of Bioenergy

Today, October 21, provides Americans the opportunity to learn about what a gas technician, an electrical lineman, a nuclear engineer or what more than one hundred other energy career options do every day. **EnergyCareers 2020** is a national event that brings students, veterans, those seeking a career change and others together via a virtual platform that showcases the vast array of careers in energy and highlights jobs for today and career paths for tomorrow.

Energy employers are actively looking for those that want to work with their hands; those that want to help keep our nation on the move; and, those that want to sustainably utilize our nation's resources. It doesn't matter if you want to work in an office or in the field, if you're willing to learn in school or on-the-job, or if you want to stay close to home or you want to live abroad, the energy sector has many stable career opportunities that can change your future.

There are numerous options to learn more about the excellent career opportunities available in the energy industry. [Get Into Energy](#) (GIE) was designed and launched by the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) to build awareness among students, women and many others to get off to a strong start to a well-paying career. Not only does GIE help you understand what energy employers need in terms of skills and competencies, GIE also helps you find energy jobs through its job search platform. Check out the current [jobs available in Mississippi](#).

[Get On The Grid](#) is an initiative led by the The Skills Foundation borne out of the Mississippi Energy Institute. It's made possible by numerous partners both public and private who understand that Mississippi's future depends on a world-class workforce ready to meet tomorrow's challenges. Get On The Grid can help you choose your career, compare salary ranges, find training programs and search job opportunities in the [energy sector](#).

Remember, energy enables practically everything we do, every day. From powering our smart devices to heating our homes to flying our planes, energy is a precious commodity. Energy comes from many different sources, and safely developing and delivering that energy to homes and businesses require many types of skills. And that translates into strong demand for trained individuals. Find you're your place in the modern energy economy!





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National Bioenergy Day 2020

October 21 also marks the [Eight Annual National Bioenergy Day](#). In normal years, events are held across the country to celebrate the environmental and economic benefits of bioenergy at the local, state and national levels. Private businesses, governments and universities would host local residents, stakeholders and officials and showcase bioenergy processes and biomass feedstocks that contribute to economic productivity, forest health and sustainable land use. However, the COVID-19 has caused this year's event to go virtual. But that does not mean you won't be able to learn about the many benefits that bioenergy provides.

So you may ask, "What is bioenergy?" "Bioenergy" is the use of any organic material (biomass), such as forest thinnings, forestry residues, agricultural waste, urban wood waste or dedicated energy crops, to generate heating, cooling, electricity or fuels. Bioenergy is a domestic energy source. Numerous power productions facilities across the U.S. produce electricity for the grid through bioenergy. Hospitals, colleges, schools, government buildings and more use bioenergy for heat and power, sometimes at costs significantly less than fossil fuels. Homes all across America have installed stoves powered by wood pellets, reducing home heating costs. Even farms and mills recycle waste products to power or heat facilities.

Here in Mississippi, bioenergy can be found in the production of wood pellets, cogeneration from biomass, thermal heat from wood chips, biofuels from agricultural products and biogas from landfills and lagoons. But to grow the sector, we must expand infrastructure, invest in research to overcome technological hurdles, improve production economics and provide a stable policy environment.

While approximately 5.57 percent of the nation's total energy production is derived from bioenergy, U.S. lands are capable of producing [enough sustainable biomass resources](#) to potentially produce 92 billion kWhr of electrical power, 60 billion gallons of biofuels and 50 billion pounds of bio-based products. These resources would generate over \$200 billion in economic impact and create 1.5 million jobs that can't be shipped to other countries.

Not only does bioenergy provide proven economic benefits, bioenergy provides environmental benefits by utilizing organic byproducts and putting them to good use. Bioenergy also plays a role in forestry health by creating markets for low-value, small-diameter trees which supports sustainable forestry management and reduces the risk of wildfires.










Bioenergy can help create a more stable, diverse energy future, enhance energy security, improve the environment, increase economic opportunities and improve global competitiveness. Bioenergy is often produced on a local or regional scale, creating benefits for rural communities. However, bioenergy often does not get the national recognition that other renewable energy resources receive. National Bioenergy Day is an opportunity for more Americans to [learn](#) about the benefits and origins of bioenergy.





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LAST WEEK *at the MPSC*

-  Atmos Energy filed its [monthly report](#) on meter estimations. Approximately 5,200 customers received their third estimated bill.
-  The Commission issued an [Order](#) creating a Joint Working Group for the purpose of drafting a repeal and replace of the Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETC) Checklist for the purpose of creating a better reporting process and submission of more comprehensive data.
-  Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC filed a Notice of Intent to Establish Initial and Temporary Rates for Wastewater Disposal Services for: [Evening Shade Subdivision in Desoto County](#); [Center Hill Subdivision in Desoto County](#); [Leland Pointe Subdivision in Warren County](#); [Pine Woods Subdivision in Warren County](#); [Pecan Village Subdivision in Warren County](#); [Cedar Lane Subdivision in Adams County](#); [Business Park Subdivision in Lamar County](#); [Camden Place Subdivision In Warren County](#); [The Trace Subdivision in Warren County](#).
-  Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC filed an Applications for CPCN and requests to acquire the assets of the following water and/or wastewater systems: Wallace LTD in Desoto County pertaining to [Center Hill Subdivision](#) and [Evening Shade Subdivision](#).
-  Town of Edwards engineer submitted [an exhibit](#) certifying that the Town has no jurisdictional sewer customers more than one mile outside the city limits. Town of Edwards was [Granted a CPCN](#) to operate a water system and provide service to 51 customers located one-mile beyond the Edwards city limits.
-  Hearing Examiner [Ordered](#) that Spire Mississippi's Application for Approval and Authorization of Natural Gas Expansion and Rural Economic Development Initiative be approved and investments up to \$6.5 million over the next 5 years be approved in support of the West Hattiesburg Pipeline Project.
-  Entergy MS filed a [Notice of Intent to Change Rates](#) under its [proposed Economic Development Rider Schedule ED-4](#). Furthermore, Entergy MS proposes to [expand incentive credit eligibility of participation](#) to include establishments primarily engaged in the wholesale distribution of durable and non-durable goods and public warehousing and storage.
-  Entergy MS filed its [Variance Reports](#) pertaining to its Schedule ECR-4 and PMR-12.
-  City of Clinton filed [additional exhibits](#) into the record in regards to its Amended Formal Complaint against Entergy MS.: [Exh. 10](#); [Exh. 11](#); [Exh. 13](#); [Exh. 15](#)



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **24** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	15
Telecommunications	5
Water/Sewage	4

Last week, the Central District received a total of **201** 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 debts, 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.