

November 12, 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

.....

2020 Hurricane Season: One for the Record Books

Back in May, [this newsletter](#) provided you a summary of the forecasts for the 2020 hurricane season. At the time, weather experts predicted 2020 to be a very busy hurricane season. Colorado State University predicted 16 named storms, The Weather Company predicted 18 named storms and NOAA's Climate Prediction Center forecasted up to 19 named storms. However, I don't think anyone was prepared for what actually happened.

With a few weeks to go, the 2020 hurricane season became the most active hurricane season on record with the formation of Theta as the 29th named storm of the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season. This breaks the single season record for the most named storms previously held by the 2005 Hurricane Season. On average, just over 12 named storms form each year.

	Named Storms	Hurricanes	Major Hurricanes
2020	29	12	5
Average Year	12	6	3
Atlantic Hurricane Season: June 1 – November 30			

But the 29 named storms was not the only record broken this year. Hurricane Delta's landfall in Louisiana made it the tenth named storm to hit the United States this year, breaking the record set in 1916. Delta was the strongest Greek alphabet named Atlantic hurricane on record when it reached Category 4 status. Tropical Storm Zeta broke the record for earliest 27th named storm to occur. The month of September had 10 named storm formations, which is the most on record for September. Three named storms formed on a single day (Sept. 18).

It has been a brutal season, with multiple strong hurricanes and storms making its impact felt in Mississippi. And we still have three weeks to go! However, this year may not be an aberration as signs are pointing to stronger and wetter hurricanes. Therefore, the energy sector and its stakeholders must prepare now to mitigate the challenges that extreme weather and other threats present to our energy grid.

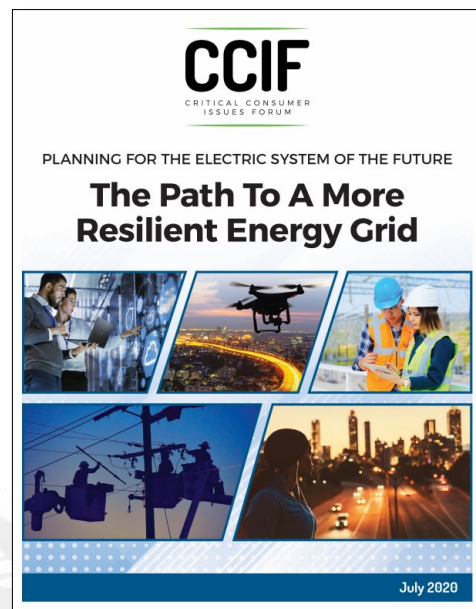


Continued...

Improving Resilience

To help facilitate such preparation, the Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF) focused on energy grid resilience over the past year and developed 12 consensus principles that outline the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in strengthening the grid. Furthermore, the CCIF stakeholders developed a definition of **resilience**: The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions to mitigate, respond to, operate through, and recover rapidly from high-impact disruptions.

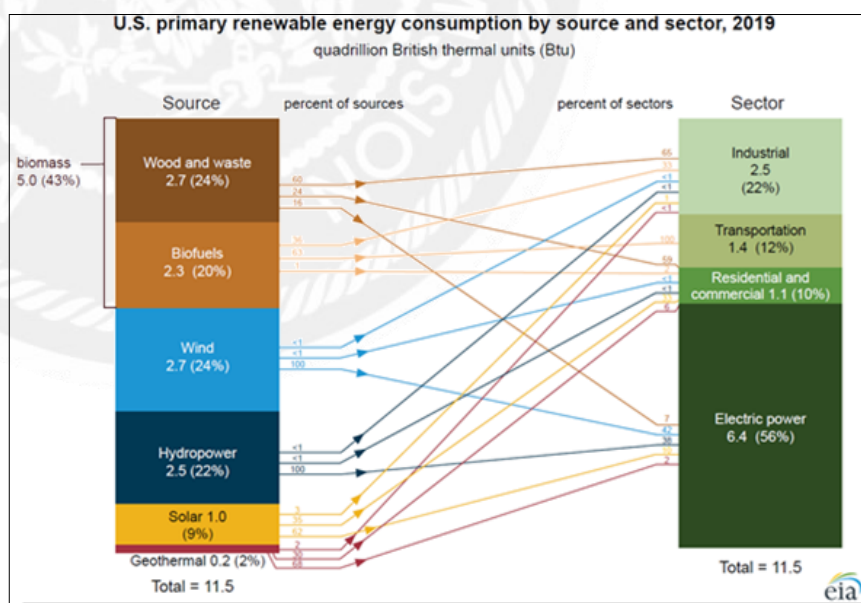
The report, [*The Path to a More Resilient Energy Grid*](#), comes as energy sector stakeholders are preparing to tackle challenges that will be presented by an ever-evolving energy mix, a changing climate, and extreme weather events. State commissioners, consumer advocates, and energy company representatives participated and worked together on the consensus principles featured in the report. CCIF partners trust that this report will serve as a useful tool for additional dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders to provide consumers with a reliable and resilient supply of electricity.



OTHER NEWS

U.S. Renewable Energy Consumption Set Record in 2019

In 2019, consumption of renewable energy in the United States grew for the fourth year in a row, reaching a record 11.5 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu), or 11% of total U.S. energy consumption. The latest U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) U.S. renewable energy consumption by source and sector chart shows how much renewable energy by source is consumed in each sector. EIA converts sources of energy to common units of heat (Btu) to compare different types of energy.

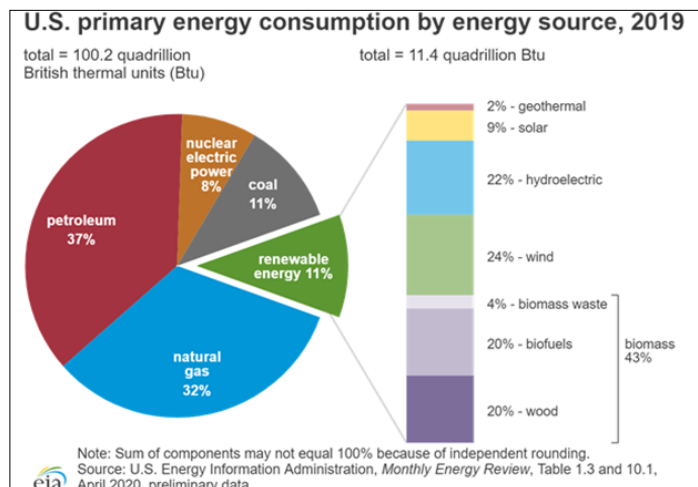




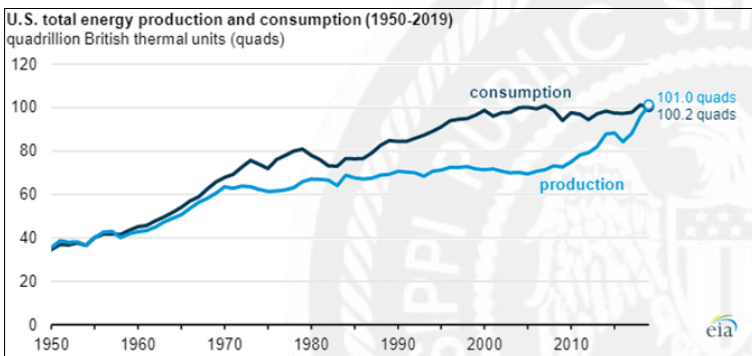
Continued...

Wind energy accounted for about 24% of U.S. renewable energy consumption. Woody biomass and municipal waste from landfills also accounted for about 24% of renewable energy use. Hydroelectric power accounted for about 22%, biofuels provided 20% and solar energy generated 9% of renewable energy consumed. Solar also had the largest percentage growth among renewable sources in 2019.

Although renewable energy consumption set a new record at 11.5 quadrillion BTUs, renewable energy still only provided 11.4% of our total energy needs. The electric power sector accounted for about 56% of total U.S. renewable resource utilization. About 17% of all U.S. electricity was generated from renewable energy sources. Natural gas was the largest source—about 38%—of U.S. electricity generation in 2019 while coal fueled the generation of 23% U.S. electricity.



In 2019, U.S. energy production exceeded consumption for the first time in 62 years. The United States produced 101.0 quadrillion BTUs (quads) of energy and consumed 100.2 quads. After both energy production and consumption hit record highs in 2018, U.S. energy production in 2019 grew 5.7%, and energy consumption decreased by 0.9%. The growth in production is largely a result of increases in crude oil and natural gas production. U.S. energy consumption has remained in a relatively narrow range since 2000. So how did the U.S. historically make up for the difference in consumption and production? Through imports, primarily the import of crude oil.



Last week at the MPSC

Entergy MS LLC (EML) filed several annual rate rider re-determinations for review by the Staff and the Commission. The combined estimated impact on the monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month is a **decrease of \$3.15 per month** beginning with the first billing cycle of February 2021. The impact of each of those re-determinations is shown in the chart below:

Docket	Description	Schedule	Current Residential Factor	Proposed Residential Factor	Residential Bill Impact Based on 1000 kWh Usage
2013-UN-178	Energy Cost Recovery	ECR-4 (Revised)	(\$0.018230)	(\$0.019957)	(\$1.73)
2009-UN-64	Energy Efficiency	EE-2 (Second Revised)	\$0.000981	\$0.000043	(\$0.94)
2017-UA-189	MISO Cost & Revenue	MISO-2	-2.81338%	-2.98907%	(\$0.19)
2014-UN-132	Power Management	PMR-12 (Revised)	0.53144%	0.89759%	\$0.38
2018-UN-258	Restructuring Credit	RC-1 (Revised)	-0.42340%	-0.40082%	\$0.03
2014-UN-132	Unit Power Cost	UPC-4 (Revised)	3.33603%	2.67221%	(\$0.70)

Combined Total Bill Reduction

(\$3.15)



Continued...

✉ The Commission suspended the filings of eight Great River Utility Operating Company LLC filings requesting the establishment of initial and temporary rates for wastewater disposal services. Four (4) of the wastewater disposal systems are located in Warren County: [Camden Place Subdivision](#); [Pecan Village Subdivision](#); [Pine Woods Subdivision](#); [Leland Point Subdivision](#).

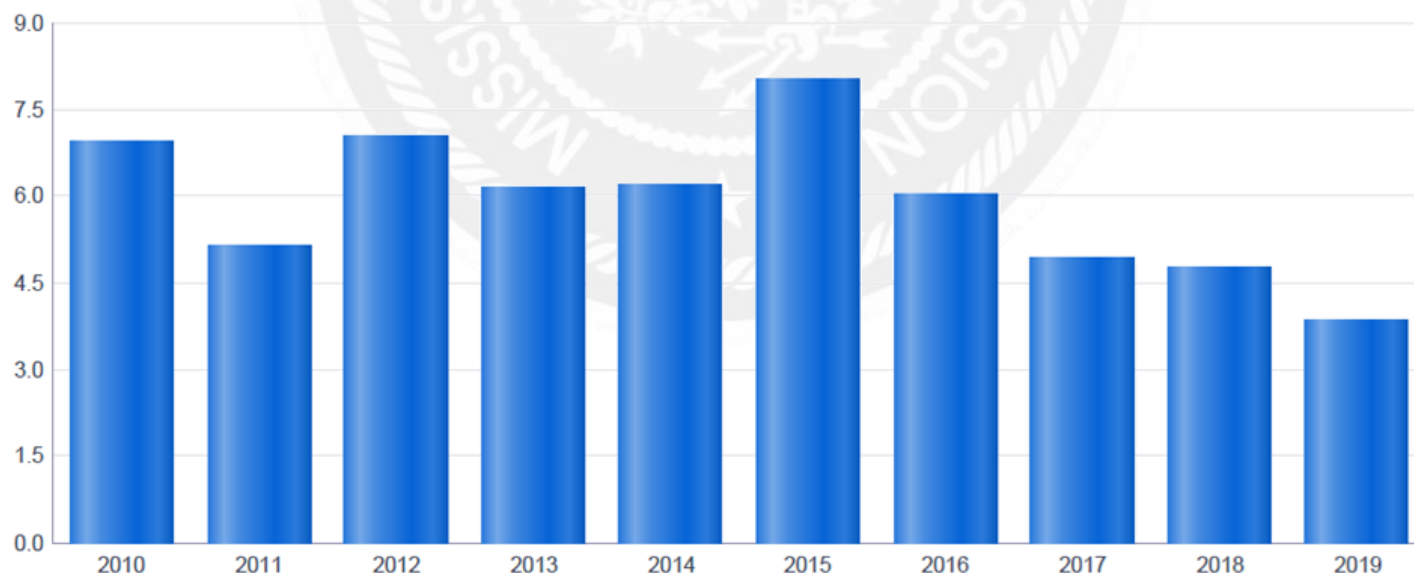
✉ The MPUS provided the Commission with the Purchased Gas Adjustment Audit Reports for the month ending July 31, 2020, for the following: [Atmos Energy](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire Energy](#).

Pipeline Safety Program: Reducing Excavation Damage Across Mississippi

The Mississippi Public Service Commission's Pipeline Safety Division provides oversight of intrastate pipelines systems through certification by the US DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). As part of its annual evaluation process, PHMSA performs thorough evaluations of each state's pipeline safety regulatory program utilizing six performance metrics.

The number of excavation damage occurrences per 1,000 locate tickets is an established benchmark within the damage prevention industry and an important indicator of a damage prevention program's performance. Excavation damage is the leading cause of natural gas distribution pipeline incidents. Under the leadership of the MPSC Pipeline Safety Program, the number of natural gas distribution line damages from excavation activities has dropped each of the past five years and has reached its lowest level in ten years. See the chart below. Approximately 3.9 damages per 1000 locate tickets were experienced in 2019. Congratulations to the MPSC Pipeline Safety Division for their role in improving safety and preventing damage to pipelines in the state.

**Mississippi Public Service Commission: Natural Gas Distribution
Excavation Damages per 1,000 Tickets**





A Special Message to our Veterans:

This week, we observed Veterans Day in honor and remembrance of our brave veterans and all of those who have served our country. We appreciate your selfless service, as you have fought to defend our country and protect our freedoms. God bless you and your families.

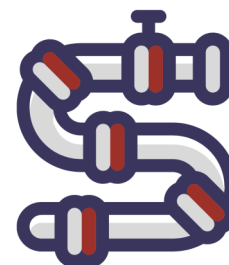


Our Pipeline Safety Division completed **10** construction inspections in the Central District during the month of October.

The total amount of construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of September is approximately **\$3,742,738**.

“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, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **11** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	4
Telecommunications	3
Water/Sewage	5

Last week, the Central District received a total of **221** 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 warranties, 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.