

December 2, 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

Taking a Lap Around Lauderdale County

Meridian and Lauderdale County, like many places in Mississippi, has a rich history in music, manufacturing, military and much more. However, I recently spent time in Lauderdale County to recognize energy efficiency investments, tour utility-scale renewables and observe utility relocation efforts.

I joined Atmos Energy to make a [\\$14,600 rebate check presentation](#) to the Lauderdale County School District for the purchase of energy-efficient equipment at Clarkdale Attendance Center, Northeast Middle School and Northeast High School. The systems eligible for the rebate and include 18 furnaces with 96% AFUE, over 300 programmable thermostats, and 5 energy efficient condensing water heaters in cafeterias. In addition



to the rebate, the estimated annual utility bill savings from the installation of these systems is over \$7,000. By being more energy efficient, the savings from improved energy performance can help pay for school supplies, building improvements and other upgrades that enhances each school's learning environment. Under the direction of the MPSC, Atmos Energy has implemented energy efficiency programs for customers through its Energy SmartChoice program.



Providing clean power for nearly a year now, the Meridian III Solar Project boasts nearly 570,000 solar panels located on approximately 650 acres. Developed, owned and operated by Silicon Ranch Solar, the 75 MW (DC) solar farm has a system that allow the panels to track the sun's movement through the day to maximize energy output. Mississippi Power Co. purchases the electricity produced by the solar farm located near the Toomsaba community. Not only does the solar farm provide cost-effective, clean energy to homes and

businesses in east Mississippi, but the solar farm serves as a long-term revenue source for Lauderdale County Schools since approximately two-thirds of the solar farm is located on Sixteenth Section lands.



Continued...



I wrapped up the day visiting downtown Meridian to check out progress with the 5th Street Revitalization Project Area. The project included streetscaping measures like new sidewalks, vegetation, and lighting. Key to the project is the undergrounding of previously overhead utilities. Now with the electric and telecommunications systems placed in underground conduits, the aging wooden poles can be removed to give the area a less cluttered skyline and open up the sidewalks for better pedestrian flow. Meridian leaders are working hard to enhance the downtown area in order to bring people and businesses back.

Last week at the MPSC



- ✎ Matrix Telecom LLC d/b/a Lingo filed a [tariff revision](#) that changes the name of Impact services to Lingo and revises bundled service rates.
- ✎ Waste Water Solutions LLC submitted [revised maps](#) of certificated areas in Lauderdale and Rankin Counties that it intends to assume control and operation.
- ✎ The Town of Belmont in Itawamba County received [Commission approval](#) to provide natural gas services to areas 5 miles or more beyond its city limits.
- ✎ The MPUS, MS River Gas LLC and C&M Gas Holdings have entered into a [Joint Stipulation](#) setting conditions for the transfer of the controlling interest in MS River Gas LLC to C&M Gas Holdings. MS River Gas LLC leases and operates three municipal natural gas systems in the Central District: Fayette, Port Gibson and Tchula.



Notice of Meeting: The Joint Working Group established by the MS Net Metering and Interconnection Rule will conduct a telephonic open meeting “work session” on **Friday, December 4, 2020, at 10:30 am.** The Joint Working Group will review consumer protection, safety and education of distributed generation systems. All interested renewable energy stakeholders are welcome to participate. See the [MEETING NOTICE](#) for more information.

✎ TracFone Wireless, Inc. filed Information Tariffs reflecting changes in its benefits plans (350 airtime minutes, unlimited text messaging and 4.5 GB of mobile broadband data) for its [SafeLink Wireless® Lifeline Service](#), [Straight Talk® Lifeline Service](#), and [Total Wireless Lifeline Service](#).



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **8** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	6
Telecommunications	1
Natural Gas	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **144** 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, financial/loans/consolidate debts, 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.