

December 30, 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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A Year in Review as We Head Into the New

As we near the end of what has been a very challenging year for all our health, businesses, lifestyles, daily routines and so much more, I want offer a note of thanks to all that have accompanied me and supported me through this endeavor. I have much gratitude for my District staff, the Commission staff, the Public Utility Staff, my family, friends and so many others that have advised me and offered their perspectives. Just as important is my appreciation to the people of the Central District of Mississippi for allowing me the opportunity to serve them in this role.

2020 was certainly unconventional by most anyone's standards. What started out as a year of focus, high expectations and ambition became a year of rapid adjustment, uncertainty and anxiety. No one and no sector went unaffected by the pandemic and resulting health and economic impacts. We offer thanks to those many essential, front-line workers that stepped up (and continue to do so) to comfort, assist and provide services that keep our communities safe and intact.

While Commission activities were slowed and we were not able to get around the Central District as we intended, I am generally happy with the actions, achievements and customer interactions of this office over the past 12 months:

- ✓ This year brought tremendous investments (nearly \$655 million) in support of broadband internet expansion to unserved areas of the state and thousands of homes will have been connected.
- ✓ Numerous clean energy projects have been announced, approved or commenced that could bring approximately 813 MW of clean generation online and investments of nearly \$1 billion dollars to the state.
- ✓ The Commission proclaimed Mississippi's First Annual Energy Efficiency Day and recognized investments in energy efficiency throughout the Central District, including Lauderdale, Hinds and Yazoo Counties.
- ✓ Temporarily suspended the disconnection of utility services and worked with utilities to implement programs that avoid disconnection due to economic hardship.
- ✓ Continued to educate consumers about Mississippi's No Call Program and steps to reduce robocalls and protect against scams.
- ✓ Appointed to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Subcommittee on Nuclear Issue-Waste Disposal, Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment, and Committee on Critical Infrastructure.
- ✓ Participated on numerous regional and local virtual panel discussions, town halls and webinars. Toured local energy projects and pipeline inspections. Participated in community events and various organizational activities.
- ✓ Fielded daily calls and emails from utility customers across the Central District to assist them with billing, service or access issues.



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Happy New Year!

As we look ahead to 2021 and what it potentially holds in store for us all, please know that the Central District is here to assist anyway we can. At the same time, we look forward to your participation as key stakeholders in matters before the Commission.

Thank you again and wishing you a Happy New Year from all of us at the Central District.

News of Note

On Sunday night, President Trump signed the \$1.4 trillion ["Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021"](#) with the embedded \$900 million "Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021." This action avoided a federal government shutdown and allowed coronavirus relief funds to flow. Last week's [newsletter](#) contained a brief overview of items of interest within the bill, including broadband, clean energy, research & development, etc.



Last week at the MPSC

- ✉ [EDP Renewables North America, LLC](#) filed a [Petition for Certification to Construct, Own and Operate a Solar Facility](#) in [Scott County, MS](#). The [Pearl River Solar Park LLC](#) is proposed to be a 175 MW^{AC} solar electric generating facility consisting up to 575,000 single-axis tracking photovoltaic panels on approximately 1,760 acres. The project will deliver power to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) grid through Entergy MS LLC's Pelahatchie to Scott 115 kV transmission line. The energy offtake of the facility is still yet to be determined. Commercial operation is projected for 2023.
- ✉ The Commission issued an [Order Setting a Telephonic Prehearing Conference](#) for [Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC](#) as pertaining to its intent to establish rates for wastewater disposal services for Camden Place Subdivision in [Warren County, MS](#). The Pre-Hearing Conf will occur Jan. 7 at 9 am.
- ✉ [North East Fiber](#), a wholly-owned subsidiary of [North East Mississippi Electric Power Association](#), filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, North East Fiber will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier broadband network and Lifeline tier service to all North East Mississippi Electric Power Association members throughout the [proposed ETC Designation Area](#).



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- ✉ **Tombigbee Fiber LLC**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Tombigbee Electric Power Association**, filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, Tombigbee Fiber will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier broadband network and Lifeline tier to consumers throughout the [proposed ETC Designation Area](#). Budget for network buildout is anticipated to be \$95 million.
- ✉ **T&J Utility Company, Inc.** (T&J) and **Quality Utility, Inc.** (Quality) and **Steve Womack** filed a [Joint Petition for Approval](#) of the sale and transfer of controlling stock and interests of T&J and Quality to Steve Womack. T&J and Quality provide wastewater treatment services to residents of **Warren County, MS**. Womack is a [certified operator](#) and has operated and maintained T&J and Quality systems for years.
- ✉ **CoastConnect LLC**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Coast Electric Power Association**, filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, CoastConnect will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier broadband network and Lifeline tier service to all Coast Electric Power Association members throughout the [proposed ETC Designation Area](#).
- ✉ **East Mississippi Connect LLC**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **East Mississippi Electric Power Association**, filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, East Mississippi Connect will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier broadband network and Lifeline tier service to all East Mississippi Electric Power Association members throughout the [proposed ETC Designation Area](#), including **Kemper and Lauderdale Counties, MS**.
- ✉ **Delta City Utility District** submitted an [updated map](#) of its proposed certificated area expansion in **Sharkey County, MS**.
- ✉ **Fannin Water Association Inc.** submitted an updated [MDOT Highway Map](#) and a [Topographical Map](#) highlighting its proposed additional sewer certification area in **Rankin County, MS**.



The January monthly docket meeting of the Mississippi Public Service Commission will take place on Tuesday, January 12 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: <https://www.psc.ms.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/NOTICE-OF-PUBLIC-MEETING-1-12-20.pdf>



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

Electric Companies	4
Telecommunications	3
Water/Sewer	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **102** 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.