

January 13, 2021



**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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## ***The Mississippi Legislature Convenes***

On Tuesday, January 5, the [Mississippi State Legislature](#) began its 133rd legislative session. Bills are currently being drafted and introduced on a daily basis. Wednesday, January 13, is the deadline to request legislation, and Monday, January 18, is the deadline for filing bills. Upon convening, the Legislature immediately

approved a bill confirming the new "In God We Trust" flag and Governor Reeves signed it into law on Monday. With the impacts of the pandemic still hanging over the state, it will be interesting to see how leadership at the Legislature navigates the legislative process. I wish them good health and a clear vision for the state of Mississippi.

The Commission will be watching numerous bills that could impact customers, certain utilities or the MPSC. Some of these include:



**[HB 86](#):** Provide for certain participation of investor owned electric utilities in the expansion of broadband services in the state

**[HB 91](#):** Public Service Commission; remove from the provisions of the Mississippi Budget Transparency and Simplification Act

**[HB 100/SB 2018](#):** MS Telephone Solicitation Act; extend repealer on requirement that fees be deposited into State General Fund

**[SB 2123](#):** Political subdivisions; prohibit ordinance that bans or restricts a person's ability to use a natural gas or electric public utility

**[SB 2210](#):** Municipally owned waterworks; prohibit from charging higher rates to customers residing outside of and within one mile of the corporate limits of the municipality

*Please note that identification of a bill in this newsletter does not indicate support or opposition to a measure. Each bill is simply identified as an example of legislation that has been assigned to Energy, Public Utilities or other committees with oversight of these matters.*



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## Other News

### World's Largest Utility-Scale Battery Energy Storage System Now Online

The [Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility](#), at 300 megawatts/1,200 megawatt-hours, is the world's largest utility-scale battery energy storage system. The lithium-ion battery storage system recently went active and is located on-site at Vistra's Moss Landing Power Plant in Monterey County, California. Construction is already underway on Phase II, which will add an additional 100 MW/400 MWh to the facility by August 2021, bringing its total capacity to 400 MW/1,600 MWh. The system captures excess electricity from the grid, largely during high solar-output hours, and can release the power when energy demand is at its highest.



*The Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility*



### Highlights of the January 12 MPSC Docket Meeting

The MPSC held its first [Docket Meeting](#) of the year on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Among the items considered and acted upon include the following:

- ☑ The Commission established and opened a new docket for the purpose of reviewing the efficacy and fairness of the **Mississippi Renewable Energy Net Metering Rule and the Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule** as directed by the Rules' Reopener Clause. Parties desiring to intervene in this matter shall do so within twenty (20) days of the date of this [Order](#). The Commission [APPROVED](#) the Order and Docket at 2021-AD-19. A schedule for inviting public comments will be included in a future order.
- ☑ **Entergy Mississippi LLC** filed annual adjustments to their [Energy Cost Recovery Rider](#), [Power Management Rider](#), [Unit Power Cost Rider](#), [MISO Rider](#), [Energy Efficiency Rider](#), [Grid Modernization Rider](#) and [Restructuring Credit](#). Per the adjustments, a residential customer of Entergy Mississippi using an average of 1,000 kWh per month can expect a total net decrease of \$3.11 to their monthly utility bill beginning with the February billing cycle. The Commission [APPROVED](#) the rates adjustments.
- ☑ **Mississippi Power Co.** filed its annual proposed Fuel Cost Recovery and Energy Cost Management factors to be applied to the February billing cycle. Per the adjustments, a typical customer of Mississippi Power Co. using an average of 1,000 kWh per month can expect a total net increase of \$0.20 to their monthly utility bill. The Commission [APPROVED](#) the rate factor adjustments.
- ☑ **Spire Mississippi Inc.** filed its proposed annual Rate Stabilization Adjustment Rider. Per the adjustments, a typical customer of Spire Mississippi using an average of 37 Therms per month can expect a total net increase of \$0.79 to their monthly bill. The Commission [APPROVED](#) the rate adjustment and the Stipulation between Staff and Spire Mississippi.
- ☑ **Spectrotel Inc.** sought an internal, pro-forma corporate reorganization to create Spectrotel of the South LLC. The Commission [APPROVED](#) the petition to transfer assets.
- ☑ **Town of Sallis** filed a Notice to Increase rates. Rates have not been adjusted in 14 years and an increase in rates is necessary to maintain the system. The average residential water customer will experience a \$4.25 increase on their monthly bill. The Commission [APPROVED](#) the rate increase upon Staff recommendation.
- ☑ The Commission [APPROVED](#) the cancellation of certificate of **LCR Telecommunications LLC**.



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## Last week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Connect Everyone LLC**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Starry, Inc.**, filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, Connect Everyone will use \$18,130,649.90 in RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier fixed wireless broadband network and Lifeline tier service to 4,256 locations throughout central Mississippi, including areas of **Hinds, Holmes, Madison, Rankin, Warren and Yazoo Counties**.
- ✎ **Conexon Connect LLC** filed its [proposed ETC Designation Area](#) map, which includes **Claiborne, Copiah and Jefferson Counties, MS**. Conexon Connect had previously filed its [ETC Application](#).
- ✎ **TecInfo Communications LLC** filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. **Nextier Consortium** was awarded 2,713 locations in 29 census blocks in **Bolivar, Sunflower and Washington Counties, MS**. Nextier Consortium assigned these census blocks to TecInfo Communications LLC. If designated as an ETC, TecInfo Communications LLC will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier fiber-to-the-home broadband as well as a fixed wireless broadband and Lifeline tier service the [proposed ETC Designation Area](#).
- ✎ **Belzoni Cable LLC** filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, Belzoni Cable will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier cable and fiber broadband network and Lifeline tier service to 1,481 customer locations throughout **Humphreys County, MS**.
- ✎ **4-County Fiber**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **4-County Electric Power Association**, filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, 4-County Fiber will use \$35,584,890 in RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier fiber-to-the-home broadband network and Lifeline tier service to all 4-County Electric Power Association members throughout the [proposed ETC Designation Area](#), including **Noxubee County, MS**.
- ✎ **Tallahatchie Valley Internet Services, LLC (TVIS)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association**, filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, TVIS will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier fiber-to-the-home broadband network and Lifeline tier service to all Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association members throughout the proposed ETC Designation Area. TVIS filed their maps as confidential and proprietary information.
- ✎ **DE Fastlink LLC**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Dixie Electric Power Association**, filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, DE Fastlink will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier fiber-to-the-home broadband network and Lifeline tier service to all Dixie Electric Power Association members throughout the [proposed ETC Designation Area](#).
- ✎ **Tishomingo Connect LLC**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Tishomingo County Electric Power Association**, filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, Tishomingo Connect will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier fiber-to-the-home broadband network and Lifeline tier service to all Tishomingo County Electric Power Association members throughout the [proposed ETC Designation Area](#).
- ✎ **ACE Fiber LLC**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Alcorn County Electric Power Association**, filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, ACE Fiber will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier fiber-to-the-home broadband network and Lifeline tier service to all Alcorn County Electric Power Association members throughout the [proposed ETC Designation Area](#).
- ✎ **Prentiss Electric Broadband LLC** filed its [proposed ETC Designation Area](#) map. Prentiss Electric Broadband had previously filed its [ETC Application](#).
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi LLC (EML)** filed a [Response](#) to **City of Clinton's** Motion to initiate a review and investigation into EML's Municipal Street Lighting Rate Schedule SL-37. In turn, the **City of Clinton** filed a [Rebuttal in Support of Motion](#) to investigate and review municipal street lighting rates.

# FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



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- ✎ **Mississippi Natural Inc.** sent a [Revised Notice to Customers](#) informing sewer customers in the affected area of **Lauderdale County** that [current rates](#) shall continue with no changes upon the transfer of Certificate to **Waste Water Solutions LLC**.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Co. (MPCo)** filed for Commission consideration a [revised Form Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement](#) for parties that have intervened in the Rule 29 Integrated Resource Planning proceeding before the Commission and wish to review information deemed confidential by MPCo.
- ✎ **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** filed letters with Commission to confirm that the proposed temporary and interim rates for the areas of [Leland Pointe Subdivision](#), [Pine Woods Subdivision](#), [Pecan Village Subdivision](#), [Camden Place Subdivision](#), and [The Trace Subdivision](#) (all in **Warren County**) will become effective only upon and after approval by the Commission of Great River's Petition for an area certificate and approval of the sale and transfer of the subject system currently pending in separate dockets.
- ✎ **Pearl River Valley Communications, LLC (PRVC)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association**, filed its [Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier \(ETC\)](#) for Mississippi. If designated as an ETC, PRVC will use RDOF Phase I Auction support for deployment of its voice and gigabit tier fiber-to-the-home broadband network and Lifeline tier service to all Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association members throughout the [proposed ETC Designation Area](#).
- ✎ **Atmos Energy** filed a [Construction Notice](#) describing the project to rebuild and automate gas withdrawal systems at the Amory Storage Field. The project is estimated to cost \$1,937,806.79 and should be complete by Oct. 2021.
- ✎ **CenterPoint Energy** submitted a [Compliance Filing](#) that includes example of bill inserts that notify their customers of various programs and organizations that are available to assist customers with payments of natural gas bills this winter.
- ✎ **Assurance Wireless** provided the Commission with an updated [Mississippi P.S.C. Tariff No. 1](#) to reflect changes to its Lifeline Assistance Broadband Plan.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Co.** filed a [Notice of Construction](#) indicating plans to replace the Ratcliffe 1A and 1B #1 High Pressure Superheater bundle. The project is estimated to cost \$8,126,485 and should be completed by June 2021.



*I had the opportunity to join Paul on The Gallo Show this morning to talk more about what is going on at the PSC. We appreciate Supertalk MS for the opportunity to share our news with you. Check out the recording of our conversation starting at the top of the 2nd hour: [http://www.supertalk.fm/audio-archives/gallo-archives/?recording\\_id=36170](http://www.supertalk.fm/audio-archives/gallo-archives/?recording_id=36170)*



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

Electric Companies	15
Telecommunications	5
Water/Sewer	2
Natural Gas	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **197** 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/consolidated debt, 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.**