

February 10, 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

2021 Annual Energy Outlook

Last week, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) released its assessment of energy markets through 2050, including the anticipated long-term impacts of COVID-19. EIA collects, analyzes, and disseminates independent and impartial energy information to provide an unbiased view of energy markets. These reports are intended to promote sound policymaking, efficient markets, and public understanding of energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment.

Projections in the [Annual Energy Outlook 2021](#) (AEO2021) are not predictions of what will happen, but rather, they are modeled projections of what may happen given certain assumptions and methodologies. By varying those assumptions and methodologies, AEO2021 can illustrate important factors in future energy production and use in the United States. Highlights and key findings in AEO2021 include:

Returning to 2019 levels of U.S. energy consumption takes years; energy-related carbon dioxide emissions fall further before leveling off or rising.

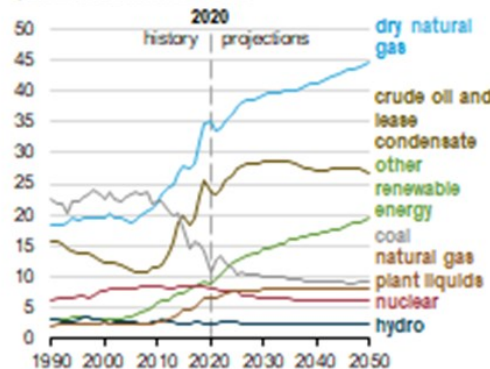
Renewable energy incentives and falling technology costs support robust competition with natural gas as coal and nuclear power decrease in the electricity mix.

Continuing record domestic energy production supports natural gas exports but does not necessarily mean growth in the U.S. trade balance in petroleum products.

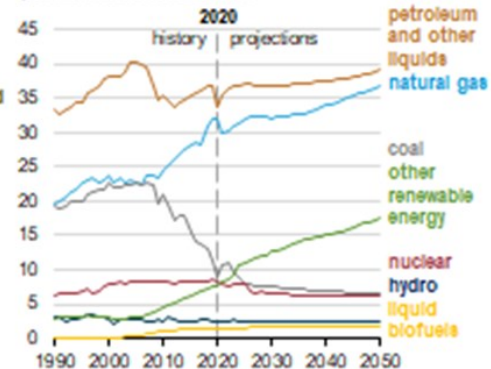


Energy production and consumption

Energy production by source
AEO2021 Reference case
quadrillion British thermal units



Energy consumption by fuel
AEO2021 Reference case
quadrillion British thermal units



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2021 (AEO2021)

www.eia.gov/aeo





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Because of energy market responses to COVID-19, the near term projections in AEO2121 are more uncertain than in previous AEOs. Report authors believe that the pandemic will have a lasting impact on energy consumption and a return to 2019 levels of U.S. energy consumption will take years, possibly by 2025. The pandemic triggered a historic energy demand shock that led to lower greenhouse gas emissions, decreases in energy production, and sometimes volatile commodity prices in 2020. Experts say that the pace of economic recovery, advances in technology, changes in trade flows, and energy incentives will determine how the United States produces and consumes energy in the future.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission will continue to weigh observed and anticipated changes in the energy markets to ensure that Mississippians have access to the most reliable, affordable and resilient energy resources possible. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the Integrated Resource Planning and Net Metering dockets and help guide the development of the state's energy future where all energy resources - including energy efficiency - are valued sources of our energy mix.

Legislation Tracker

Note: The deadline for original chamber floor action is February 11, 2021

- [HB 91](#): Removes the Public Service Commission from the provisions of the Mississippi Budget Transparency and Simplification Act
passed House Appropriations and placed on calendar
- [HB 100](#): Extends Repeal Date that Requires All Fees collected under the Telephone Solicitation Act be Deposited into the General Fund
passed both House Appropriations and House AET and placed on calendar
- [HB 505](#): Creates the Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Act
passed House floor vote
- [HB 632](#): Establishes "All Fuels Act of 2021" and provides that no political subdivision may prohibit the expansion, connection, or reconnection of a service based upon the type of energy provided to a customer.
passed House Energy and placed on calendar
- [HB 942](#): Authorizes investor-owned electric utilities to permit broadband provider use of the electric delivery system
committee sub passed House floor vote
- [HB 1063](#): Act to Authorize Supervisors of any County to Designate Projects as Transformative Renewable Energy Projects
passed House floor vote
- [SB 2018](#): MS Telephone Solicitation Act; extend repealer on requirement that fees be deposited into State General Fund
pass Senate floor vote
- [SB 2559](#): Authorizes PSC to enter into federal contracts for the mapping of broadband availability
passed Senate floor vote
- [SB 2649](#): Extends Repeal Date on EE Equipment or Service Contracts
passed Senate floor vote
- [SB 2798](#): Provides for the participation of investor-owned electric utilities in the expansion of broadband services
committee sub passed Senate floor vote

Please note that identification of a bill in this newsletter does not indicate support or opposition to a measure. We will continue to monitor progress of these and other legislation impacting the MPSC.



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Last week at the MPSC

- ✂ The following stakeholders have had their respective motion to intervene granted in Docket 2021-AD-19 (Review of Net Metering and Interconnection Rules): [Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#); [2nd Mississippi](#); [EMEPA](#); [GSREIA](#); [ECM](#); [Solar Alternatives, Inc.](#); [Solar Energy Industries Association](#); [PosiGen, Inc.](#); [MSES/ASES](#); [Scenic Hill Solar, LLC](#); [Bigger Pie Forum, LLC](#); [MS Chapter NAACP](#); [EEECHO](#); [Utility Management Corporation](#); [Steps Coalition](#).
- ✂ The following petitions for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) have been referred to the Central District Commissioner for hearing, report and recommendation: [TecInfo Communications, LLC](#) and [Belzoni Cable, LLC](#)
- ✂ The following petitions for designation as an ETC have been referred to the Southern District Commissioner for hearing, report and recommendation: [CoastConnect, LLC](#); [DE Fastlink, LLC](#); [Pearl River Valley Communications, LLC](#).
- ✂ The following petitions for designation as an ETC have been referred to the Northern District Commissioner for hearing, report and recommendation: [North East Fiber, LLC](#); [Tombigbee Fiber, LLC](#); [M-Pulse Fiber, LLC](#); [TEPA Connect, LLC](#); [NT Spark, LLC](#); [Prentiss Electric Broadband, LLC](#); [Tallahatchie Valley Internet Services, LLC](#); [Tishomingo Connect, LLC](#); [First Light Fiber, LLC](#).
- ✂ The following petitions for designation as an ETC will be considered by the full Commission: [4-County Fiber](#); [Connect Everyone LLC](#); [Conexon Connect LLC](#); [Delta Fiber LLC](#); [East Mississippi Connect LLC](#); [Starlink Services LLC](#).
- ✂ [Cellular South Licenses, LLC](#) and [Telepak Networks, Inc.](#) had their requests to intervene granted for the following Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation petition reviews: [Starlink Services, LLC](#); [4-County Fiber, LLC](#); [TecInfo Communications, LLC](#); [DE Fastlink, LLC](#); [Tishomingo Connect, LLC](#); [Connect Everyone, LLC](#); [First Light Fiber, LLC](#); [Pearl River Valley Communications, LLC](#).
- ✂ [Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#) filed a [Petition for CPCN](#) to construct and operate a new substation, transmission line, distribution lines and related facilities in Desoto County. The total estimated cost of the proposed electrical facilities is approximately \$56.3 million.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **53** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	45
Water/Sewer	4
Telecommunications	3
Natural Gas	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **252** 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, credit cards, 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.