

February 3, 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*



# HIGHLIGHTS

## from the MPSC February Docket Meeting (Agenda)

- ☑ **Atmos Energy Corporation** received [Approval](#) from the Commission for a three year extension of an Asset Management Agreement with its affiliate, Trans Louisiana Gas Pipeline, Inc. The MPUS evaluated the RFP process and recommended the Asset Management Agreement be extended through April 30, 2024.
- ☑ The Commission [approved an Order](#) for **Progress Community Water Association**, Inc. granting a Supplemental Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in Lamar County.
- ☑ The Commission [approved an Order](#) granting Supplemental Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for **F & H Utilities, LLC** in Lamar County.
- ☑ The Commission [approved an Order](#) approving the sale of sewer assets and transfer of certificates of **Mississippi Natural, Inc.** to **Waste Water Solutions, LLC** to operate and maintain sewer systems in **Lauderdale, Rankin**, and Lamar Counties.
- ☑ The Commission [approved an Order](#) requesting written comments from all parties for the purpose of reviewing the efficacy, fairness and functionality of the **Mississippi Renewable Energy Net Metering Rule and the Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rules**. Comments are due within 60 days from the date of the Order, which is approximately April 5. The Commission put forth a series of questions and issues in the Order for parties to provide feedback.
- ☑ The Commission [approved an Order](#) referring the Petition of **Pearl River Solar Park, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing construction, ownership, and operation of a solar electric generating facility in **Scott County**.
- ☑ The Commission approved a motion that enables each Commissioner to rule on Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation cases for RDOF funding where a carrier would be serving citizens only in a single PSC district. When a carrier's proposed service area affects customers in multiple districts, those cases will be heard by the entire Commission.



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## Legislation Tracker

The Commission has been watching numerous bills that could impact customers, certain utilities or the MPSC. February 2 was the deadline for general bills to be passed out of committees within the chamber of bill origination. This week we spotlight the following:

- **[HB 91](#)**: Removes the Public Service Commission from the provisions of the Mississippi Budget Transparency and Simplification Act.  
*Passed Public Utilities and Appropriations*
- **[HB 505](#)**: Creates the Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Act.  
*Passed Public Utilities*
- **[HB 632](#)**: Establishes the “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 Energy*
- **[HB 942](#)**: Authorizes investor-owned electric utilities to permit broadband provider use of the electric delivery system  
*Committee substitute passed Public Utilities*
- **[HB 1252](#)**: Provides certain PSC requirements for posting of proceedings and information  
*Passed Accountability, Efficiency, Transparency (AET)*
- **[SB 2018](#)**: MS Telephone Solicitation Act; extend repealer on requirement that fees be deposited into State General Fund  
*Passed Energy and Appropriations*
- **[SB 2291](#)**: Requires PSC to study emergency districts funding and expenditures  
*Died in committee*
- **[SB 2559](#)**: Authorizes PSC to enter into federal contracts for the mapping of broadband availability  
*Passed Energy*
- **[SB 2798](#)**: Provides for the participation of investor-owned electric utilities in the expansion of broadband services  
*Committee substitute passed Energy*

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.



## Last week at the MPSC

- ✂ The following stakeholders filed to intervene in Docket 2021-AD-19 to “Review the Efficacy and Fairness of the Net Metering and Interconnection Rules”: **[Attorney General](#)**; **[Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#)**; **[MS Solar Energy Society](#)**; **[Bigger Pie Forum](#)**; **[Gulf States Renewable Energy Industry Association](#)**; **[Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi, Inc.](#)**; **[Solar Alternatives, Inc.](#)**; **[Cooperative Energy](#)**; **[Entegrity](#)**; **[PosiGen, Inc.](#)**; **[Scenic Hill Solar, LLC](#)**; **[Utility Management Corporation](#)**; **[Mississippi NAACP](#)**; **[EECHO](#)**; **[Steps Coalition](#)**; **[City of Jackson](#)**.
- ✂ Bellsouth Telecommunications d/b/a AT&T Mississippi filed its **[Answer to Complaint](#)** filed by **[Airus, Inc.](#)**
- ✂ Boomerang Wireless, LLC filed its **[Compliance Notice](#)**.
- ✂ CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. filed its **[Notice of Filing of Routine Changes to Gas Facility Extension Policy](#)**.





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- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed **Bigger Pie Forum's** signed [Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement](#) form in Mississippi Power Company's IRP proceeding.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed a [Motion for Extension of Time](#) for its System Restoration Rider, Rate Schedule "SRR" until April 20, 2021. The Commission [Granted](#) the extension.
- ✎ **Town of Edwards** in Hinds County filed its [notice of intent](#) to establish water service rates.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi LLC** filed an [Application](#) proposing certain accounting treatment for the uncertain costs associated with the provision of electrical service to the City of Itta Bena, MS.
- ✎ **T&J Utility Company, Inc.** received a [request for more information](#) from the MPUS in regards to potential transfer of assets in **Warren County**.

## Other News



### Violations against the MTSA

Our Special Assistant Attorney General at the Commission has recently filed three complaints against companies for alleged Mississippi Telemarketers Solicitation Act violations. These three cases represent 680 alleged violations and \$9,745,000 in potential fines. They will be identified pending notification.

*Even with very limited public attendance, I enjoyed being back in the Commission Hearing Room for our monthly Docket Meeting yesterday. For the last several months, the Commission has conducted business via telephonic meetings, hearings, etc. It will still be a while before meetings will be back to normal, but this was a nice step.*



Davis and I joined the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors via Zoom on Monday for their monthly board meeting. I appreciate the Board for allowing me to give opening remarks and provide an update from the MPSC. Claiborne County is moving forward through strong workforce development and critical utility assets in their backyard. The Board and the MPSC share a common goal of providing all residents access to high quality, high speed internet. We expect through recent federal grant funds and other investments that internet will be delivered to a little over 1,500 locations who are currently unserved. We look forward in the coming months to join the Claiborne County BOS for an in-person meeting.

+Live/recorded stream of the meeting is available here: <https://fb.watch/3nWEX7hqOY/>

# FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



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*Pictured left: I appreciate the Madison County Business League and Foundation for allowing me to be their keynote speaker last week at their Business Briefing. Topics included energy efficiency for business, utility business support programs, broadband investments and Covid-19 relief efforts. I look forward to joining another MCBL&F meeting later this year to provide another update from the PSC!*



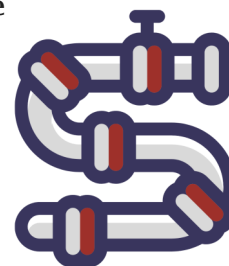
*Pictured right: On Tuesday, I joined Commissioner Kimberly Duffley (North Carolina), Commissioner Tim Echols (Georgia), and Gray Styers (Fox Rothschild LLP) for a presentation during the NC Sustainable Energy Association's Virtual CLE. Our panel- "View from the Bench" -focused on energy issues in the Southeast.*

**Our Pipeline Safety Division completed 10 construction inspections in the Central District during the month of January 2021.**

**The total costs for construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of January is approximately \$4,150,558.**

**"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 **59** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	52
Telecommunications	2
Natural Gas	3
Water/Sewer	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **299** complaints from consumers against potential telemarketers through our no call app, website and mail-ins. The top four general issues reported by consumers are related to auto warranties, claimed law enforcement, 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.***