

March 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

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What Do You Know About Grand Gulf Nuclear Station?

D*id you know that Grand Gulf Nuclear Station is the largest single-unit nuclear plant in the nation?* That's right! After a comprehensive project to "uprate" the plant in 2012, Grand Gulf's total output was increased to 1,443 megawatts making it the largest single-unit nuclear power plant in the country and fifth largest in the world.

Located near Port Gibson, MS along the Mississippi River, Grand Gulf went online in July 1985. It is the only nuclear power plant in Mississippi and produces electricity while avoiding carbon emissions and emissions of pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. Approximately 750 employees work at Grand Gulf while other support staff are located at Entergy Nuclear Corporate Headquarters in Jackson, MS.

Originally licensed for 40 years of operation, The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a 20-year license extension that now expires in November 2044. Grand Gulf is a General Electric boiling water reactor that feeds steam to a Kraftwerk Union turbine generator unit. Cooling water is provided by collection wells and a 520-foot tall natural draft cooling tower cools and condenses the steam back into a liquid for reuse.

Who actually owns Grand Gulf? Grand Gulf is 90% owned by System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Entergy Corp. The other 10% is owned by Hattiesburg, Mississippi-based Cooperative Energy. While Grand Gulf is managed by Entergy Nuclear, SERI distributes the capacity and sells energy from the Grand Gulf nuclear station, at wholesale, to Entergy Corporation's subsidiaries, including Entergy Mississippi, Entergy Arkansas, Entergy Louisiana and Entergy New Orleans. Entergy Texas does not purchase Grand Gulf energy from SERI. Because the energy is sold at wholesale rates, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates and approves the price at which electricity is sold from SERI to the Entergy subsidiaries.



Entergy's Grand Gulf Nuclear Generating Station has a 520-foot natural draft cooling tower.

How is power divided up? Under SERI's Unit Power Sales Agreement, 90% of Grand Gulf's energy capacity is allocated at the following percentages: Entergy Louisiana - 14%; Entergy New Orleans - 17%; Entergy Mississippi - 33%; and Entergy Arkansas - 36%. In addition, Entergy Mississippi purchases 7% of Entergy Arkansas' capacity for a total of 40% going to Mississippi, or approximately 500 MW of Grand Gulf's total output.



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Nuclear power plants are designed to run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week because they generally require less maintenance and can operate for longer stretches before refueling (typically every 1.5 or 2 years). In 2019, the capacity factor of U.S. nuclear power plants stood at around 93.5 percent. So how does Grand Gulf compare to the national average? In the mid 2010's, Grand Gulf experienced capacity factors as low as 56 percent. However, in 2019, Grand Gulf operated at a capacity factor of 89.9 percent. Energy production fell in 2020 due to an extended refueling outage and system and control upgrades project. As of the writing of this newsletter, Grand Gulf has operated at 100 percent capacity for the past 80 days.



Grand Gulf had a twin? Well, almost! Adjacent to the operating Grand Gulf station, is an unfinished concrete structure that was to be the containment for Unit 2. In December 1979, Entergy stopped work on Unit 2. Furthermore, in 2007, Entergy and NuStart submitted a Combined Construction and Operating License application for a potential new nuclear Unit 3 at Grand Gulf. The application was withdrawn in September 2015 after many years of inactivity.

Entergy Nuclear has a strong program for environmental compliance, risk management and safety for employees and local communities. And Grand Gulf is a key economic driver for Claiborne County and other counties in the Central District. Mississippi should look forward to many more years of affordable power from Grand Gulf.



Highlights from the MPSC March Docket Meeting

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on March 2, 2021, to consider the following [agenda](#) items:

- ☑ The Commission [approved an Order](#) granting **Crown Castle Fiber, LLC** an extension of time for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide facilities-based and resold local telecommunications services in the state of MS.
- ☑ The Commission issued an [Order approving](#) **Lingo Telecom of the South, LLC's** transfer of customers from **Lingo South** to its affiliate **Matrix** and cancellation of its Certificate.
- ☑ The Commission approved Orders granting supplemental Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity to the following: [Heatherwood Utilities, LLC](#) (Lamar County); [Fannin Water Association, Inc.](#) (Rankin County); and [Delta City Utility District](#) (Sharkey County).
- ☑ The Commission [approved](#) **Le Papillon Utility Company, LLC's** amended filing of its intent to increase rates for a certificated area in Lamar County.
- ☑ The Commission [approved an Order](#) referring the Petition of **MS Solar 5, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing the construction and operations of a solar electric generating and storage facility in Lowndes County.



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- ☑ The Commission issued orders certifying the Fuel Adjustment Audit Reports to the Legislature for [Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#) and [Mississippi Power Company](#). The firms that performed the audits presented a verbal summary of finding to the Commission. The Public Utility Staff also provided written summaries and comments on the fuel audit reports.
- ☑ Commissioners tabled until the next meeting of the Commission consideration of a proposed Order to Establish a Docket to Investigate the Membership of **Entergy Mississippi LLC** in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator.
- ☑ Pursuant to the *Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act*, the Commission issued an Order [Imposing Civil Penalty by Default](#) against **Arrowbridge Holdings, LLC**.



Other News

Americans Installed Record Amounts of Solar and Wind Energy in 2020

The U.S. added a record amount of wind and solar energy last year even as the coronavirus was impacting the national economy, according to the [2021 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#).

Installations of renewable energy capacity soared 61% over the previous year, with 33.6 gigawatts (GW) added to the grid in 2020. That's enough energy to power roughly 11 million homes for a year. Wind enjoyed its best year ever with 17.1 GW constructed, while solar exceeded its previous record with 16.5 GW completed. Meanwhile, biogas, biomass, geothermal and waste-to-energy together represented 16.6 GW of existing U.S. capacity in 2020. Existing hydropower generation accounted for 35% of total renewable energy output in 2020. Where does Mississippi stack up in the clean energy economy? According to the [Mississippi Clean Energy Factsheet](#), Mississippi ranks #47 in the nation for cumulative renewable electricity capacity and #49 for total generation from renewables.

Getting the Most Out of Low-Cost Solar and Wind: Seven Strategies for State Regulators

The decline in wind and solar generation costs in the past decade opens up new opportunities for electric utilities and their customers. In some cases, it can be cheaper to build new solar and wind generators than to operate existing fossil-fired plants. This [new report](#) outlines seven practical strategies that public utility commissions can use to reduce obstacles to this technological change and speed utilities' acquisition of low-cost solar and wind — ensuring just and reasonable rates for consumers.

USDA Invests \$4.6 Million in Distance Learning and Telemedicine Infrastructure to Improve Education and Health Outcomes in Mississippi

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it is [investing \\$42.3 million to help rural residents gain access to health care and educational opportunities](#). Approximately \$4,618,154 will be invested in parts of the Central District, some counties specifically listed include Bolivar, Hinds, Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey and Washington. The investments will bring economic advancements in telehealth, distance learning, STEM and infrastructure to the region.



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National Legislation Alert

On March 2, leaders of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee introduced the Climate Leadership and Environmental Action for our Nation's (CLEAN) Future Act. The CLEAN Future Act proposes numerous new policies aimed at dramatically cutting greenhouse gas emissions from energy, buildings, transportation, industry and more. Hearings on the CLEAN Future Act are planned for the months ahead. Bill text can be found [HERE](#), a section-by-section can be found [HERE](#) and a one-pager is available [HERE](#).



Mississippi Legislation Tracker

- [HB 91](#): Removes the Public Service Commission from the provisions of the Mississippi Budget Transparency and Simplification Act.
Died in Committee
- [HB 100](#): Extends Repeal Date that Requires All Fees collected under the Telephone Solicitation Act be Deposited into the General Fund
Passed Senate Comm. on Accountability, Efficiency, Transparency
- [HB 505](#): Creates the Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Act.
Died in Committee
- [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 Senate Energy Committee
- [HB 942](#): Authorizes investor-owned electric utilities to permit broadband provider use of the electric delivery system
Passed Senate Energy Committee as Amended
- [HB 1063](#): Act to Authorize Supervisors of any County to Designate Projects as Transformative Renewable Energy Projects
Died in Committee
- [HB 1396](#): Act making an appropriation from general fund in the state treasury for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the MPSC for the 2022 fiscal year.
Transmitted to Senate
- [HB 1441](#): Act to authorize an income tax credit and insurance premium tax credit for taxpayers for the costs of any qualified alternative-fuel fueling station for motor vehicles
Transmitted to Senate
- [SB 2018](#): MS Telephone Solicitation Act; extend repealer on requirement that fees be deposited into State General Fund
Passed House Public Utilities/Appropriations Committees as Amended
- [SB 2559](#): Authorizes PSC to enter into federal contracts for the mapping of broadband availability
Died in Committee
- [SB 2649](#): Extends Repeal Date on EE Equipment or Service Contracts
Passed House Energy Committee as Amended
- [SB 2798](#): Provides for the participation of investor-owned electric utilities in the expansion of broadband services
Passed House Public Utilities Committee as Amended

The deadline for Committee Action on general bills originating in the other chamber was March 2. The deadline for Floor Action on general bills originating in the other chamber is March 10. 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

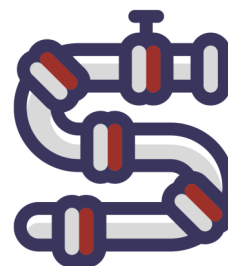
- ✎ The Public Utilities Staff prepared their monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment Audit Reports for the period October 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020 for the following: [Atmos Energy](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire Mississippi Inc.](#)
- ✎ The following regulated utilities have filed their Annual Reports as required by the Hire Mississippi Rule: [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#); [Spire Mississippi Inc.](#)
- ✎ The Commission issued Orders approving notice filings for **CenterPoint Energy's** routine changes to its [Supplemental Growth Rider](#) and to its [Gas Extension Policy](#),
- ✎ The Commission issued an [Order](#) approving the **Town of Edwards'** Notice of Intent to Establish Rates in a certificated area in Hinds County.
- ✎ Boomerang Wireless, LLC d/b/a **enTouch Wireless** filed its [Revised Tariff Pages](#) receiving a new docket number.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Co.** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to withdraw and discontinue rates for electric service in the Seasonal Electric Service Rider, Schedule SR-13, and the Large Power High Load Factor, Schedule LPO-44. **Mississippi Power Co.** also filed a [Notice](#) of Plant Daniel Water Treatment Unit Replacement Project.

Our Pipeline Safety Division completed **4** construction inspections in the Central District during the month of February 2021.

The total costs for construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of February is approximately **\$1,075,731**.

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

Electric Companies	24
Telecommunications	1
Water/Sewer	3

Last week, the Central District received a total of **235** 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, 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.