

April 21, 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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Central District Recognizes National Lineman Appreciation Day

The utility lineman is one of the most dangerous jobs in America, and for good reason. These men and women often have to brave the elements of mother nature in order to restore power when it goes out. Each April 18, utilities, regulatory agencies and customers across the country celebrate [National Lineman Appreciation Day](#) to express gratitude for line workers and others out in the field that make sure power moves along the transmission lines, through the substations, into the distribution network, across the meter and into your home or business.



Pictured above with Central Electric Power Association linemen at the Philadelphia District location.



I recently had the opportunity to spend some time with utility linemen in Neshoba County. Neshoba County was one of the hardest hit areas during the back-to-back February 2021 Winter Storms. At the storms' peak, over 9,000 homes and businesses lost power across Neshoba County, nearly a third of the population. These linemen - as well as linemen from across the state and region - responded by working long hours in challenging conditions to restore power to the communities they call home.

Pictured left with Philadelphia Utilities linemen at an on-site vegetation management and preventative maintenance job.



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The MPSC Central District wants to take this opportunity to let linemen know we appreciate their hard work and dedication to their craft.

Some would say it is not just a job, but a calling that requires one to be courageous when times get tough. Mississippi is regularly impacted by severe weather events. These men and women undergo years of training so that they know how to safely and efficiently work around power lines. So, if you see your local utility linemen in your neighborhood, the grocery store or at a community event, let them know you appreciate what they do for our communities.

Quick Fact: After 2012's Hurricane Sandy, the 113th Congress passed a bill (S. RES. 95) designating *April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day*. The bill became law in 2013. Over 67,000 linemen responded to Hurricane Sandy.

Locator Safety & Appreciation Week ***April 19-21, 2021***

As mentioned many times in this newsletter, digging without knowing the location of underground utilities can result in damage to gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines, which can lead to service disruptions, serious injuries and costly repairs and fines. With more than 20 million miles of underground utilities in the U.S., it is extremely critical for people to call 811 and allow two days for a utility locator to locate, identify and mark any underground utilities before any excavation begins.



Utility locators encounter safety hazards on a daily basis while they are doing their job to keep workers and the community safe from excavation hazards. These hazards include everything from dog and insect bites to navigating rough terrain to extreme weather and climate conditions. [Locator Safety & Appreciation Week](#) (LSAW) provides an opportunity for the industry to thank these boots-on-the-ground professionals and let them know their contributions to safe worksites and communities are valued.

Take the opportunity to acknowledge the locators you see working in your area and let them know how much you appreciate the difficult, challenging, and sometimes dangerous work they do protecting our underground utilities. Furthermore, do your part by calling 811, pay attention to flagging and markings, and don't be one of those bone-head 38.6 million Americans this year that will dig without first having underground utilities marked!



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Other News

2020 US Energy & Employment Report

At the end of March, the [2020 U.S. Energy & Employment Report](#) (USEER) was published. The annual USEER is an in-depth survey of the U.S. labor force and skills trends in five energy sectors across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The USEER tracks employment trends in Fuels; Electric Power Generation; Transmission, Distribution, and Storage; Energy Efficiency; and Motor Vehicles. The survey found that the U.S. Energy and Energy Efficiency sectors currently employ 6.8 million workers nationwide. The USEER also puts a spotlight on markets, technologies, and occupations that offer opportunities for higher wages.

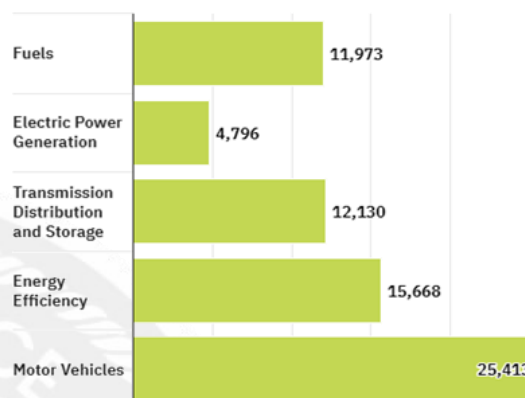
Mississippi has 28,900 traditional energy jobs, 15,668 energy efficiency jobs and 25,413 motor vehicle sector jobs. Each job sector is projected to grow over the next 12 months. Employers report that the most in-demand jobs are technicians/mechanical, management, and sales/marketing/customer service. Check out the [Mississippi Energy and Employment Report](#).

Mississippi

Most in-demand energy jobs

1. Technicians/mechanical support (\$21.99/hour)
2. Management — directors, supervisors, vice presidents (\$39.94/hour)
3. Sales, marketing, or customer service (\$32.38/hour)

Jobs by sector in Mississippi



More data:

[Read the 2020 Energy Employment by State report](#)
[Read the Mississippi Report](#)

Last week at the MPSC

State Regulators Urge Congress to Keep Consumer Protections in Place

I, along with my two colleagues and 95 other commissioners from 35 states and two territories, endorsed a letter constructed by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) urging Congress to keep existing protections in place for the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Lifeline Broadband and Voice Program. The FCC's Lifeline program subsidizes monthly broadband and telephone service for low-income households. For a carrier to qualify to receive that federal subsidy, they must be designated by either a State Commission or the FCC as an "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC)."

However, certain telecommunications carriers are pushing Congress to eliminate ETC requirements. Many NARUC member commissions, including the Mississippi Commission, conduct ETC Designations and NARUC is on record strongly opposing elimination of that procedure. Removing state-level ETC checks and balances can lead to substandard service, inflated subsidy claims from carriers and harm our most vulnerable and underserved communities. To read NARUC's response letter go to <https://bit.ly/3tEl5Ta>.

Mississippi Power Company filed its [2021 Integrated Resource Plan](#) pursuant to Commission Rule 29. A key component of the Plan is MPCo's proposal to reduce generating capacity by 976 MW by year-end 2027. MPCo does not project a capacity need until at least 2031. Stakeholders have 60 days within filing of the Integrated Resource Plan to submit comments. The Commission and Public Utilities Staff will also review the Plan.



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📁 **NRRI Paper on Cyber Attacks and Cybersecurity**

The electric grid is undergoing rapid transformation as a result of new technologies being deployed on utility networks and behind the meter by consumers. The growing connectivity between the grid and customer devices increases cybersecurity vulnerabilities and the potential entry points through which malicious cyberattacks can be launched. NARUC's National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) new paper reviews the potential threats that utilities are facing and the new types of equipment and procedures that utilities may deploy to protect against these cyber-based incursions. To download the paper: [Understanding Cyber Attacks and Available Cybersecurity Technologies](#).

- 📁 The following entities have filed a motion to intervene in the Mississippi Public Service Commission's Docket Number 2021-AD-52 [Order](#) Establishing Docket to Investigate the Membership of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC in Midcontinent Independent System Operator: Cooperative Energy; 350 New Orleans; Flora Real Estate & Development, LLC; Southern Renewable Energy Association**.
- 📁 **Entergy Mississippi LLC** held its [Technical Conference](#) pursuant to Commission Rule 29 to provide an overview of the process, planning assumptions and inputs used to develop its Integrated Resource Plan. Certain stakeholders have until May 16 to file comments. EML must submit its proposed Integrated Resource Plan by June 15.
- 📁 A Customer has [filed](#) comments with the Commission regarding the proposed sale of **T & J Utility Company Inc. to Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC**.
- 📁 **Atmos** filed its [Monthly Report on Meter Estimations](#).
- 📁 **East Mississippi Connect, LLC** made its [Informational Lifeline Tariff Filing](#).
- 📁 **Aristotle Unified Communications LLC** submitted its informational [Mississippi Tariff](#) and submitted a [Request for Expansion of Designated Service Area as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier](#) in Mississippi. Aristotle seeks to receive Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support of \$45,169,908 to provide broadband internet and voice service to 11,693 locations in Coahoma, **Issaquena**, Quitman, **Sharkey**, Tunica and **Yazoo Counties**.
- 📁 **Tunica Windpower LLC** has had one party enter a Motion to [Withdraw](#) as Counsel and another enter a [Notice of Appearance](#). A public hearing regarding Tunica Windpower LLC's request to construct and operate the generating facility will be held on Wednesday, April 21 at 6:00 pm at the Tunica County Courthouse.
- 📁 [Notice of Hearing](#) issued for Petition by **Entergy Mississippi LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and maintain a 23-kV substation and related transmission and distribution lines and other facilities in Desoto County.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **29** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	14
Telecommunications	8
Water/Sewer	7

Last week, the Central District received a total of **225** complaints from consumers against potential telemarketers through our no call app, website and mail-ins.

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.