

May 12, 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

It's Hurricane Preparedness Week; Let's Get Prepped Mississippi

The 2021 hurricane season officially starts on June 1. But don't wait until June 1 or even until the first tropical storm threatens our shores to begin thinking about what you need to do to protect your family, your property and yourself. Just because you may not live on the Coastline, you can still be significantly impacted by strong sustained winds, spin-up tornadoes or inland flooding due to intense rain.

By the conclusion of the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season, there had been 31 tropical depressions, 30 of which became tropical storms or hurricanes. Six of the storms became major (Category 3+) hurricanes, making 2020 the most active Atlantic hurricane season on record. Furthermore, the total aggregate cost for the 2020 season was almost \$47 billion and took the lives of over 430 people in the Atlantic Basin.

The Colorado State University (CSU) hurricane prediction team anticipates another active year for 2021 with 17 named tropical cyclone formations, including eight hurricanes with four of those becoming major hurricanes. (Over the past 70 years, the average number of named storms per year is 11.)

Hurricane Preparedness Week is an opportunity to review your preparedness, make necessary adjustments and initiate any

actions so that you can successfully grapple with any challenges that may arise. **These steps include:**

Determine your hurricane exposure risk; Develop an evacuation plan for you and your pets; Assemble disaster supplies to cover at least three days; Get a home and vehicle insurance check-up; Secure your home and belongings; Help your neighbors; Develop a written plan with a list of essential contacts.

Remember, don't wait until the last minute to act. You should prepare for the worst, but always hope for the best. But at the least, prepare today!

National Hurricane Preparedness Week May 9-15, 2021		
Sun	May 9	Determine Your Risk, Hurricane Basics
Mon	May 10	Develop An Evacuation Plan, Storm Surge Threat
Tue	May 11	Assemble Disaster Supplies
Wed	May 12	Secure an Insurance Check-Up, Fresh Water Flooding Threat
Thu	May 13	Strengthen Your Home, Wind Threat
Fri	May 14	Check on Your Neighbor, Forecast Process
Sat	May 15	Complete Your Written Hurricane Plan, Staying Safe After A Storm



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OTHER NEWS

Major U.S. Fuel Artery Shuts Down Due to Cyberattack

The news this week has been dominated by the coverage of the ransomware cyberattack that halted the operations of the Colonial Pipeline, a major delivery system spanning from the U.S. Gulf Coast to the East Coast for transportation fuels and other refined petroleum products. The Colonial Pipeline is a 2.5-million-barrel-per-day system of approximately 5,500 miles of pipeline and support systems that delivers refined petroleum products to 14 states. The pipeline halted

operations on May 7 after proactively taking systems offline to contain the cyberattack. [As of Tuesday, May 11](#), the pipeline had not resumed full operations of its main lines, although some smaller lines are now operational and the upper extent of the pipeline is being manually operated. The company announced that it hopes to restore service by the end of the week. In the meantime, alternative methods of moving fuel have ramped up, including trucking, ships and barges. There are ample supplies of fuel in the region. So be patient and purchase/use only what you need.

Petroleum product supply overview
U.S. Gulf Coast and East Coast regions



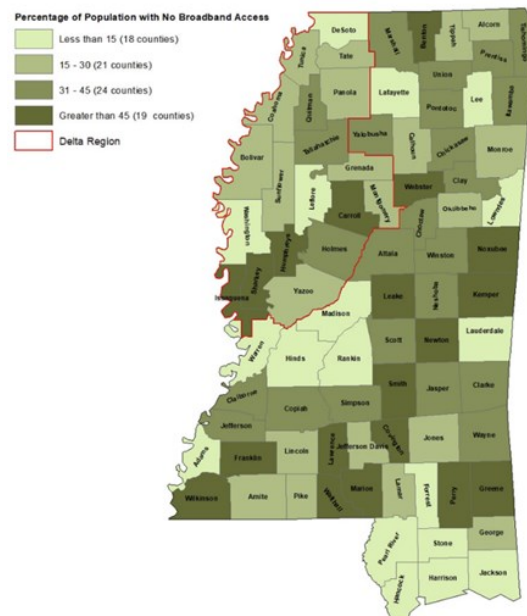
MS Ag Producers Lack Broadband Access

Mississippi State University Extension agricultural economists have [compiled data that illustrate the connectivity limitations](#) facing many Mississippi counties and how the lack of broadband access creates significant disadvantages to farmers, ranchers and foresters wherever fast internet is scarce.

Broadband internet is generally considered anything at or above a 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed and a 3 Mbps upload speed. Nineteen counties in Mississippi have 45 percent or more of its population lacking broadband access. Twenty-four counties have populations where 31-45 percent of residents lack access to broadband internet.

The majority (58 percent) of Mississippi's almost 3 million residents live in rural counties. However, rural residents account for 80 percent of the population without broadband access.

Approximately \$800 million dollars is currently available to invest in rural Mississippi to close the digital divide between rural areas and urban areas. The dollars being made available through USDA ReConnect, CARES Act and Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I have jumpstarted an effort to extend affordable, high-quality internet to unserved and underserved parts of the state. Additional dollars through the American Rescue Plan allocations and the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase II should also help support the buildout of broadband services.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010; FCC Form 477 Fixed Broadband Deployment Data, June 2019













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Energy Production Fell in 2020; Expected to Rebound in 2021

In 2020, energy production in the United States fell to just below 96 quadrillion British thermal units (quads), down more than 5% from 2019's record high. In absolute terms, the drop from 101.3 quads in 2019 to 95.8 quads in 2020 marked the largest annual decrease in U.S. energy production on record. Economic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic drove most of this decrease.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) [predicts increases](#) in U.S. crude oil production and gasoline consumption (1.2 million barrels per day more). Natural gas production is predicted to remain steady while domestic consumption slightly decreases and LNG exports increase. Electricity consumption is predicted to increase by 2.2% in 2021. The electricity generation mix for 2021 is anticipated to be: Natural gas 35%; Coal 24%; Renewables 21%; Nuclear 20%.

Last week at the MPSC

-  The following have filed reply comments in **Docket No. 2021-AD-19** Order Establishing Docket to Review the Efficacy and Fairness of the Net Metering and Interconnection Rules: [Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#); [MS Power Company](#); [EEECHO and Steps Coalition](#); [PosiGen, Inc.](#); [Solar Energy Industries Association](#); [Dimension Renewable Energy](#); [Scenic Hill Solar, LLC](#); [Sierra Club](#); [MSES/ASES](#)
-  The following entities have filed a motion to intervene in the Mississippi Public Service Commission's **Docket No. 2021-AD-52** Order Establishing Docket to Investigate the Membership of Entergy Mississippi, LLC in Midcontinent Independent System Operator: [Clean Grid Alliance](#); [Gulf States Renewable Energy Industries Association](#) (Petition for Late Intervention)
-  The **Public Utilities Staff** prepared and submitted the following Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustments Audit Reports for the period December 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021: [Atmos](#); [CenterPoint](#); [Spire](#)
-  The following electric cooperatives have filed their compliance audit in accordance with the provisions of Section 77-5-201 et. seq. and Section 89-12-11 of the Code of Mississippi: [4County EPA](#); [Delta Electric EPA](#); [Natchez Trace EPA](#); [Southern Pine](#); [TVEPA](#); [Tishomingo County EPA](#); [Twin County](#); [Coast EPA](#); [Monroe County EPA](#); [Singing River](#)
-  **East Mississippi EPA** [filed](#) its annual Energy Efficiency Program report for FY2020.
-  The **Commission** [noticed](#) a hearing for **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct, maintain, and operate a s230-KV substation in Desoto County.
-  The **Commission** [noticed](#) a hearing for **4-County EPA** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for a new substation in Monroe County.
-  **CenturyLink Communications, LLC** [filed](#) Revised MS Tariff No. 2.
-  **Magna5 LLC** [filed](#) its Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessity for Local and Interexchange Telecommunication Services statewide.
-  **Onvoy, LLC** [filed](#) its Application/Indirect Transfer of Control to **Sinch US Holding Inc.**



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **45** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	32
Telecommunications	7
Natural Gas	3
Water/Sewer	3

Last week, the Central District received a total of **275** 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.