

June 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

***From the Coast, to the Square County, to the Delta,
the Central District Engages with Stakeholders***

Over the past week or so, the Central District has been hitting the road to meet with stakeholders, constituents and regulated partners as well as celebrate significant investments in broadband deployment and clean energy development.

My travels started with a visit to the [Mississippi Rural Water Association \(MsRWA\) Annual Management & Technical Conference & Exhibition](#) held at the

Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center in Biloxi. MsRWA is the state's largest water and wastewater utility membership organization and provides leadership, training programs and technical assistance and services to its utility members. Like many events in 2020, last year's annual meeting and expo was cancelled due to COVID-19 precautions.

However, people were ready to get out this year and it showed. Approximately 1,100 water and wastewater operators, utility board members, office staff and exhibitors descended on the Coast Convention Center to learn about rules, regulations and new compliance tools, earn CEU credits and see the latest technologies that support utility operations.

However, it wasn't all work all the time on the Coast. The MsRWA hosted a golf outing as well as their annual fish fry and shrimp boil using ONLY Mississippi-based fish and seafood products.



*I also got the chance to be a judge for the "Best Water in Mississippi" contest. Utilities from around the state submitted water samples that were blind-judged on clarity, smell and taste. **Congratulations to the Central District's own City of Vicksburg's Haining Road water treatment plant for capturing the title of "Best Water in Mississippi" for the second year in a row!***

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I was joined by George Butler from our office to work our MPSC Central District exhibit booth to share information about the functions of our office, how we wish to work more with water and wastewater utilities in the Central District and provide some mementos of our visit. And no trade show is complete without a visit with the staff of [Mississippi 811](#). Sam Johnson and team work hard to prevent damage to underground utilities, protect public safety and minimize utility service disruption (which makes customers happy). **Always call 8-1-1 before you dig!**



Leake County is known as the Square County and is the geographical center of the state of Mississippi. The actual geographic center is located 9 miles west-northwest of Carthage, MS. Leake County is also the top producing county for chickens (broilers) in the state. And while I no longer live in Leake County, it will always be my "home" county. So, it is always a pleasure to return when I can to visit with family, friends and city/county leaders. On Monday, I visited with the Board of Supervisors to provide an update on some of the core issues that we are working on at the PSC, including our utility infrastructure review, broadband expansion, net metering and integrated resource planning dockets and our efforts to reduce robocalls. I hope to have similar visits with all county Boards of Supervisors in the Central District.



Thanks to Leake Supervisors Larry Sims, Kevin Kemp, Kirby Nazary, Oliver Smith and Chip Jones

On to the Delta.....

Last week, I had the privilege to attend a reception at the Delta Council office in Stoneville which serves as a preview of the Delta Council Annual Meeting in Cleveland. It was one of the first big events of the year in this part of the world. And then it was on to the 12th Annual Snake Grabbin' Rodeo at Lake Washington. (yep, it was just what it says.....)

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This week, I signed the Order that provides Belzoni Cable LLC their eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designation which opens the door for them to begin drawing on \$6,697,849 as a winning bidder in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I auction.

With the funds, Belzoni Cable has committed to deploying state-of-the-art, fiber optic to 1,482 locations throughout



Belzoni Cable's General Manager Samantha Manseill, Owners Danny Jones and Stephen Donovan, Senator David Jordan and Belzoni Mayor Joe Jackson

Humphreys County and parts of Sharkey County. Belzoni Cable will provide high-speed broadband and voice access and will offer speeds of at least 1 gigabit download at prices that are reasonably comparable to urban rates. Belzoni Cable will also offer Lifeline and Emergency Broadband Benefit programs for low-income customers. The MPSC thanks the team at Belzoni Cable for stepping up and leveraging their resources to bring broadband internet service to the "Heart of the Delta!"

Next thing you know, we on our way to Tunica County to celebrate the signing of the [Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity](#) (CPCN) for the construction and operation of the first wind farm in Mississippi! Tunica Windfarm LLC is slated to be a 200 MW wind turbine electricity generating facility located across 13,000 acres in Tunica County. The planned 100 turbines will provide electricity to nearly 70,000 homes. Construction of the facilities is expected to be completed late 2022. The power from the wind farm will be sold into the MISO wholesale market. The project is expected to create between 150 and 250 jobs during the construction period and will inject new revenues into the local communities.



For far too long, our state has been considered a wind desert, not feasible for wind energy. With advancements of wind technology, the improvement of turbine blades, and extensive research, that is no longer the case! 42 states have utility-scale wind projects operating and MISSISSIPPI will soon make number 43! READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3qf9Kn2>



Highlights of the June 8 Docket Meeting

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on June 8, 2021, to consider the following [agenda](#) items:

- ☑ The Commission considered and approved the [Order and Stipulation](#) between **Mississippi Power Co.** (MPCo) and the MS Public Utilities Staff (MPUS) regarding notice of a rate change pursuant to MPCo's 2021 Performance Evaluation Plan (PEP). Upon evaluation of several factors impacting revenue requirements, the 2021 PEP resulted in an increase of \$2.80 per month for a residential customer using 1000 kWh.
- ☑ The Commission considered and approved the [Order](#) granting the sale and transfer of nine water systems collectively serving approximately 1,521 customers in various counties across Mississippi to **Great River Utility Operating Company LLC**.
- ☑ The Commission considered and approved the [Order](#) granting the sale and transfer of thirty-five wastewater systems collectively serving approximately 5,942 customers in various counties across Mississippi (including Hinds, Lauderdale and Warren) to **Great River Utility Operating Company LLC**.
- ☑ The Commission approved a motion to issue a Request for Proposals for legal services pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 77-1-55 and other related matters.
- ☑ The Commission referred a matter to the Northern District concerning service quality issues at Okolona Electric.
- ☑ The Commission held a hearing on MPCo's 2021 Environmental Compliance Overview (ECO) Plan. Projected expenditures for 2021 results in a decrease of \$0.95 per 1000 kWh monthly residential bill. When combined with the 2021 PEP rate change, the result is an overall net increase of \$1.85 per month for a residential customer using 1000 kWh. The Commission approved the [Order and Stipulation](#).
- ☑ The Commission also held a hearing on **Entergy Mississippi LLC's** (EML) Notice of Intent to Implement Revisions to its 2021 Formula Rate Plan (FRP). EML outlined its major ongoing and planned capital expenditures and revenues required to improve reliability and customer service. The overall monthly increase for a residential customer beginning in July will be \$6.50. This includes a \$5.54 FRP rate increase and collective impact to seven rider schedules of an additional \$0.96. The Commission approved the [Order and Stipulation](#).



Last Week at the MPSC

- ☐ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** [filed](#) its Joint Stipulation with the Public Utility Staff regarding its notice of intent to implement revisions to its Formula Rate Plan (FRP).
- ☐ **Mississippi Power Company** [filed](#) its Joint Stipulation with the Public Utility Staff regarding its 2021 Environmental Compliance Overview (ECO) filing pursuant to the company's environmental compliance plan.
- ☐ The following filed Revisions to Tariffs to revise certain switched access rates in compliance with the requirements of the Report and Order, FCC 20-143, on 8YY Access Charge Reform issued by the Federal Communications Commission in WC Docket No. 18-156: [ACN Communication Services, LLC](#); [Bandwidth.com CLEC, LLC](#); [DeltaCom, LLC d/b/a EarthLink Business](#); [Business Telecom, LLC](#); [XO Communications Services, LLC](#); [Neutral Tandem-Mississippi, LLC](#); [Broadvox- CLEC, LLC](#); [Onvoy, LLC](#); [Frontier Communications of Miss. LLC](#); [Fusion Cloud Services, LLC](#); [Intrado Communications, LLC](#); [BullsEye Telecom, Inc.](#)
- ☐ **Atmos Energy Corporation** [filed](#) its update regarding its performance meter testing and replacement schedule.
- ☐ **Atmos Energy Corporation** also [filed](#) its monthly report regarding meter estimations and compliance with Docket No. 2018-AD-141 Rules and Regulations Governing Public Utility Service.
- ☐ **BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mississippi** [filed](#) its Revision to Switched Access Service.
- ☐ **Sprint Communications Company L.P.** [filed](#) its Petition to Discontinue Telecommunication Services within the state.
- ☐ **Mississippi Power Company** [filed](#) its Petition for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing the construction, acquisition, extension, operation and maintenance of transmission and related Facilities and Rights-of-Way in **George County**.
- ☐ **Mississippi Power Company** [filed](#) Notice of Special Contract and supporting documents with **Hardy Technologies, LLC**.
- ☐ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** [filed](#) a Submittal of Demand-Side Management Portfolio Implementation Report.
- ☐ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** also confidentially filed a Supplement to Attachment I to its Formula Rate Plan filing.
- ☐ **MS Solar 4 LLC** [filed](#) a Petition to construct and operate a [96 MWac solar facility](#) in Covington County, MS.
- ☐ The **Commission** signed Orders for [Windstream Comm.](#) and [Aristotle Unified Comm.](#) for ETC designation.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **22** complaints in the Central District.

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|--------------------|----|
| Electric Companies | 21 |
| Telecommunications | 3 |
| Water/Sewer | 2 |
| Natural Gas | 2 |

Last week, the Central District received a total of **218** 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.