

June 17, 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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Growing Relationships with County Supervisors



This week, I was back in Biloxi for the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) 2021 Annual Convention. Since 1908, the MAS has served as the voice of county government leaders. The MAS focuses on educating county supervisors and other county officials on items of importance to counties, advocating for policies that help advance the core duties of county government and protects county government from harmful measures, and empowers county officials to demonstrate leadership and pursue initiatives for the betterment of local communities.

Final registration figures indicated that approximately 1,600 county officials, support staff, volunteers and vendors were on hand for this year's MAS Convention. I had the pleasure to interact with many supervisors and various county officials from not only throughout the Central District but from across the state. I enjoyed hearing stories of economic success and the common challenges that many faced on a day-to-day basis.

Throughout the convention, issues surrounding infrastructure, including broadband and water/wastewater, were at the forefront of many topics espoused by speakers and certainly questions from the convention floor. Through the American Rescue Plan Act, Mississippi counties are set to collectively receive \$578,082,050. The county allocations range from \$45 M for Hinds County to \$257,800 for Issaquena County. Furthermore, the Mississippi legislature is set to receive \$1.8 B over the next two years. Recipients may use these funds to: Support public health expenditures; Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency; Replace lost public sector revenue; Provide premium pay for essential workers, and; Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. While all these are justifiable categories in which to expend funds, the MPSC will be most interested in how funds can be used to bolster water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. I look forward to working with the state, counties, utilities and private-sector providers of critical services to prudently invest these dollars where they have long-term positive impacts for Mississippians – especially those in the Central District.

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MAS21 Snaps





OTHER NEWS

NARUC Broadband Expansion Task Force Announces June Open Meeting

The NARUC Broadband Expansion Task Force will hold its next virtual open public meeting on **June 25, 2021**, at **noon** (ET). Members of the public are invited to watch the meeting online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85102288342>. During the meeting, task force members will adopt the final task force recommendations and task force report. Once adopted, the task force recommendations will be issued as a resolution for discussion by the NARUC Committee on Telecommunications during the NARUC Summer Policy Summit. If the resolution is approved by the Committee on Telecommunications and NARUC's Board of Directors, the recommendations will become NARUC policy. The draft recommendations to be considered at the meeting can be found at <https://bit.ly/33KqeO9>.

TVA Issues RFP for Renewable Energy Generation Projects

The Tennessee Valley Authority issued a request for proposals to [build utility-scale solar and battery storage projects](#) that need to become operational by the end of 2024. Proposals must be submitted by July 20, 2021. Developers can review TVA's request for proposal and submit bids at www.tva.com/Information/Doing-Business-with-TVA. TVA will announce the selected projects this winter.

The RFP supports TVA's nationally-recognized Green Invest program, which has secured solar projects to meet the renewable energy goals of TVA customers and distributors. Since 2018, Green Invest has attracted nearly \$2.7 billion in solar investments and procured about 2,100 megawatts of solar. TVA has outlined a path to an 80% carbon reduction by 2035 with up to 10,000 megawatts of solar capacity online, while moving toward its aspirational goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

New Orleans City Council Establishes Renewable and Clean Portfolio Standard (RCPS)

On May 20, the New Orleans Council voted to approve the first [Renewable and Clean Portfolio Standard](#) (RCPS) in the Gulf South. Currently, 32 states and three US territories that have established renewable energy generation mandates. The RCPS is a legal mandate that requires that, by 2040, all of the electricity Entergy New Orleans supplies to New Orleans comes from energy sources that do not impact the climate, with up to 10% offsets allowed. By 2050, Entergy New Orleans must entirely eliminate the use of fossil fuels. This policy prioritizes local solar and efficiency first and does allow for nuclear energy.

Updated Interactive Map of U.S. Power Plants Available Now

Synapse has made some substantive changes to its [Interactive Map of U.S. Power Plants](#), including: Migration of the map from a downloadable Google Earth file to an ArcGIS Online Dashboard; Ability to select a variety of base maps; Addition of the latest power plant-specific data on capacity, generation, and emissions for 2020, as well as historical data from 2015 through 2019. [View the updated power plant map here.](#)



February Arctic Event Report Released

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) released a detailed report on the February cold weather event highlighting the need for better generator performance requirements, resource adequacy planning, transmission constraint mitigation and interconnection with neighboring regions, as well as coordination between MISO and its stakeholders regarding resource planning decisions. MISO identified 20 lessons learned from this event and many more actions that it feels it needs to address in response to this event which can be found in the appendix of the report:

<https://cdn.misoenergy.org/2021%20Arctic%20Event%20Report554429.pdf>



Last Week at the MPSC

- ✉ The following stakeholders have filed comments in response to **Mississippi Power Company's** proposed [Integrated Resource Plan](#) (IRP) pursuant to **Commission Rule 29** Docket No. 2019-UA-231: [AEMA](#); [SREA](#); [SACE](#)
- ✉ The Public Utilities Staff prepared and filed Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) audit reports for the month of February 2021 for the following utilities: [Atmos Energy](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire Mississippi Inc.](#)
- ✉ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** [submitted](#) its [2021 Integrated Resource Plan](#) (IRP) pursuant to the **Commission's** Rule 29 providing development, planning, and reporting of long-term resource plans. Any interested party has 60 days within filing of the Integrated Resource Plan to submit comments. Comments are due on or about August 15, 2021. The Commission and Public Utilities Staff will also review the Plan.
- ✉ **The Commission** [approved](#) an order regarding **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Notice of its Intent to Make a Routine Change in Rates by Filing Proposed Net Metering Rider Schedule NEM-1. This schedule establishes the rate at which distributed generation owners are compensated for excess generation sent to the grid. The [total benefits of distributed generation](#) to be applied to excess energy credits applicable to renewable energy net metered interconnection customers not eligible for low-income benefits is 5.7¢ per kWh and 7.7¢ per kWh for those eligible to receive the low-income benefits adder. These rates go into effect on June 30, 2021.
- ✉ **Frontier Communications of Mississippi, LLC** [filed](#) its application for allocation and assignment of numbering resources in the Rienzi, MS Rate Center and request for expedited consideration.
- ✉ Pursuant to the Commission's June 8, 2021 Order, **Mississippi Power Company** made its compliance [filing](#) in its Notice of Intent to change rates pursuant to the Performance Evaluation Plan, Rate Schedule PEP-6 Docket No. 2019-UN-219.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **21** complaints in the Central District.

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|--------------------|----|
| Electric Companies | 14 |
| Water/Sewer | 4 |
| Telecommunications | 3 |

Last week, the Central District received a total of **245** 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.