

July 14, 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*

## **Mississippi's Newest Wastewater Treatment Facility Putting on Final Touches**

**A** flush may not beat a full house in a Mississippi casino. But when it comes to determining how wastewater leaves your home or business, a good flush beats a full house any time! To ensure that residents and businesses can be confident every time they flush and that the wastewater sent through the system will be treated properly, the leaders of several Rankin County municipalities and administrators of other facilities agreed that it was in their best interest to construct their own, modern wastewater treatment facility.

Last week, I had the opportunity to take a tour of the soon-to-be-operational West Rankin Utility Authority's (WRUA) wastewater treatment plant located in Richland, MS. The facility will handle and treat the wastewater load from the sewer utilities of Brandon, Flowood, Pearl, Richland, Pearl River Valley Water Supply District (Rankin County side), Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield, the Jackson-Evers International Airport, and other government facilities and residential areas in unincorporated parts of Rankin County. Much of the wastewater from these areas is currently sent to the Savanna Street Wastewater Treatment Plant in South Jackson.



Once operational, the WRUA facility will treat up to 20 million gallons per day (M gal/d) of wastewater. Wastewater enters the facility through a single 48-inch pipe where non-biodegradable solids and other gritty materials are screened out and disposed.



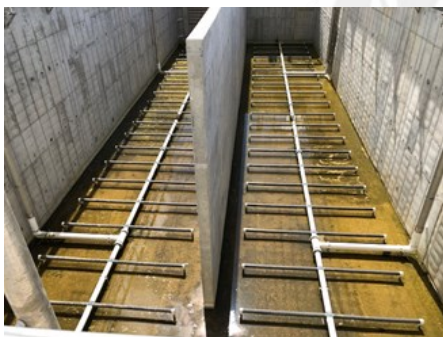
*Wastewater enters the facility in the large pipe to the left. This structure contains a series of grates, screens and other equipment to remove plastics, metals, glass, grit and other solids that wind up in wastewater.*







After the non-biodegradable solids are removed, the wastewater is then sent to and distributed among two parallel streams with five chambers that conduct both aerobic and anaerobic bacterial biological treatment activity. As the wastewater circulates through a vertical raceway that both exposes the liquid to the atmosphere as well as deprives it from oxygen, the wastewater is inoculated with high-performance bacteria that speeds the decomposition process. As seen at the left, WRUA is currently testing all the pumps, equipment, etc. with clean water.



The wastewater is continuously monitored for a range of characteristics as it moves through the facility. WRUA will have its own laboratory with the latest equipment and staffed with certified personnel.

After moving through the treatment chambers, the wastewater will enter the aeration chambers where the liquid stream will be further oxygenated with fine bubbles emitted by piping located along the bottom of the chambers.



After oxygenation, the wastewater stream is then transferred, or flows, into a series of circular clarifier chambers where any remaining biosolids are allowed to settle out. The accumulated biosolids are then transported to a building where the biosolids are mechanically dewatered and compressed to be land applied as a nutrient-based soil amendment. After the wastewater achieves certain treatment milestones in the clarifier, it moves through a process that exposes the liquid stream to an intense ultraviolet (UV) light

to achieve final disinfection of any microorganisms. After UV treatment, the liquid stream is then discharged through a diffuser into the Pearl River.

I wish to thank Bruce Stephens, Executive Director of the WRUA, (seen with me on page 1) and Ernie Williams of Maintenance Systems, Inc. for taking the time out of their day to explain the design, tour me around and answer my numerous questions.

Proper, safe and effective wastewater treatment is a must for modern society to grow and flourish. It is an essential service that allows us to live our lives without worrying about how or where our waste is processed or released. Thanks to the members of the WRUA for taking on this important and critical project. Our environment will benefit, as will the people of Rankin County.





## Highlights of the July 8 Docket Meeting

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

- ☑ The Commission [accepted](#) **Spire Mississippi's** proposal to make permanent its temporary Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider. The WNA Rider will level out the fuel costs of extreme weather events .....
- ☑ The Commission [granted](#) the transfer of telecommunication services from Wholesale Carrier Services, Inc. to BCM One Group Holdings, Inc.
- ☑ The Commission [granted](#) the acquisition of Air Voice Wireless by Vtel Holdings LLC.
- ☑ Great River Utility Operating Company LLC was granted Area Wastewater Service Certificates for eight wastewater systems, including the following in Warren County: [Camden Place Subdivision](#); [Pine Woods Subdivision](#); [Pecan Village Subdivision](#); [Leland Pointe Subdivision](#).
- ☑ A [matter](#) regarding Cooperative Energy was referred to South MS Commissioner.
- ☑ The Commission agreed to accept Del Sol Consulting's proposal to assist the MPSC in its review of public utility infrastructure and make a written report of findings and recommendations.



## Last Week at the MPSC

- ☐ **Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (Staff)** filed its [motion](#) for extension of time to file comments in response to **Mississippi Power Company's** 2021 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP"). The **Commission** issued an [order](#) denying in part and granting in part the **Staff's** motion for extension.
- ☐ In regards to **Mississippi Power Company's** Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), **Southern Renewable Energy Association (SREA)** filed its [data request](#), objection, and response to **Mississippi Power Company's** data request.
- ☐ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its Annual Mississippi Hire [Report](#) pursuant to practice and procedure and the **Commission's** Rules.
- ☐ **Cable One VoIP LLC d/b/a Sparklight** submitted its [Application](#) for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.
- ☐ **Gary Jabara Revocable Trust** and **BAI Communications US Holdings LLC** filed its joint [Petition](#) for authority to transfer indirect control of **Mobilitie, LLC**.
- ☐ **Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC** filed its [notice](#) of the Federal Communications Commission's approval of



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **20** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	15
Telecommunications	3
Water/Sewer	1
Natural Gas	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **253** 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.*