

August 5, 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

**Bringing the Heat at the 2021
Neshoba County Fair**

Thursday, July 29 was one of the hottest, most humid days of the year. It was also the day I was slotted to address fairgoers who were willing to venture out to the Pavilion on Founder's Square at 9:30 am in the morning. While I have spoken from the podium at the Fair twice as a candidate, this was the first time I had the opportunity to address folks as their Public Service Commissioner since the 2020 Fair was cancelled last year due to COVID-19 concerns. Although COVID is still around, the Neshoba County Fair Committee went forward with the Fair this year. And people were thankful.



During my address to those in attendance, I discussed the Commission's investigation to review the condition and resiliency of electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunication infrastructure across the state following the service disruptions many utilities experienced during the February 2021 winter storms. I provided a review of the significant amount of funding resources and investments coming into the state to support expansion of high-speed broadband internet service into unserved and underserved areas of Mississippi. I also reminded people that the Commission remains committed to stopping robocalls and scam calls. My office received 7,428 telemarketer complaints from consumers during the first 6 months of this year.

Other issues the Commission is working on include: Evaluating electric utilities' Integrated Resource Plans to best determine what the cleanest, most reliable energy resource portfolio should be; reviewing the costs and benefits of new transmission infrastructure; working with natural gas providers to extend service to industrial parks and other rural areas, and; working with utilities large and small to address a range of customer-facing issues. Many of these actions can have an impact on economic development, workforce opportunities and local tax revenues.

The Neshoba County Fair is also a great time to catch up with old friends, meet new people and eat some of the best treats anywhere around. Although the heat was tough, I would not have missed the opportunity to be at the Fair. If you want to hear my entire Fair speech, you can do so at https://youtu.be/Ckq2CQ_-DA0. Check out more photos from the fair on our [FB page](#).



I was honored to grab a photo with Mike Leach, MS State Head Football Coach, at the fair.



Giving and Receiving Updates in Meridian

Yesterday, I traveled to Lauderdale County to address the Rotary Club of Meridian and it was a pleasure to see so many friendly faces in the audience. Similar to the Neshoba County Fair, I provided attendees an overview of some of the key issues that we are working on at the Commission. But I was also able to target the discussion around Lauderdale County and identify opportunities to target funds that increase the resiliency and reliability of water, sewer and broadband infrastructure, among other options. Thank you again to the leadership of the Rotary Club of Meridian for having me at their weekly meeting. I look forward to

returning soon!

While in the Meridian area, I also stopped by the offices of East MS EPA to get an update on their fiber optic deployment project ([East Mississippi Connect LLC](#)) and the rate of internet service subscriptions by EMEPA customers. EMEPA CEO Randy Carroll indicated that 709 miles of fiber optic cable has been installed and that 538 miles of that fiber is in service. To date, 1765 customers have subscribed to East Mississippi Connect internet service and another 5963 customers have pre-registered. East MS EPA has been a leader in efforts to deploy fiber optic and provide affordable, high-speed internet.



Remembering J.T. Williamson



In January 2020, J.T. Williamson – family man, radio personality, grill master, MSU Bulldogs fan and so much more – was diagnosed with Large B-cell Lymphoma. For the last year and a half, J.T. fought valiantly against this disease. But he succumbed to this aggressive cancer on July 31, leaving behind a wife, two children and a sister.

J.T. is probably best known for being the host of “The J.T. Show” on SuperTalk stations around the state. In this role, he discussed racing, hunting, grilling, sports, politics and just about anything else that folks wanted to talk about or argue over. He developed a loyal following over the years as thousands tuned in each day to learn, laugh and fume. J.T. was generous with his time and afforded me several opportunities to join him on his show as I pursued election to the MPSC.

Unfortunately, I never took a picture with J.T. while in studio. The picture to the left was taken in the SuperTalk studio on October 15, 2019. The person taking the photo was J.T. Williamson. I can just kick myself now for not getting a picture with him. But who would have known that just three months later his world would be turned upside down. J.T.’s life was celebrated at a service on August 5 at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, MS. Learn more about the life of J.T. Williamson: <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/21889992/j-t-williamson>.





Highlights of the August 3 Docket Meeting

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on August 3, 2021, to consider the following [agenda](#) items:

- ☑ The **Commission** considered and granted the [Order](#) approving the special contract between **Mississippi Power Company** and **Hardy Technologies (Lumberton Lumber Mill facility)** after proper publication and notice was given to all interested parties.
- ☑ The **Commission** granted Sprint Communications Company's [Petition](#) to discontinue local exchange carriers operations in Mississippi.
- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved orders authorizing **Great River Utility Operating Co. LLC's** intent to establish temporary rates of \$27 per month and other fees in the following subdivisions in the following counties: [Evening Shade \(Desoto\)](#); [Center Hill \(Desoto\)](#); [Leland Pointe \(Warren\)](#); [Pine Woods \(Warren\)](#); [Pecan Village \(Warren\)](#); [Cedar Lake \(Adams\)](#); [Business Park \(Lamar\)](#); [Trace \(Warren\)](#)
- ☑ The **Commission** referred two matters to the Southern District concerning certificates of public convenience and necessity for [Cooperative Energy](#) and [MS Solar 4, LLC](#) in Covington County.
- ☑ The **Commission** [referred](#) the matter of the joint petition of **T & J Utility Company Inc.** and Steve Womack for approval of transfer of stock and change of control to Commission Staff for hearing, report, and recommendation of an appropriate order.
- ☑ The **Commission** [referred](#) the matter of **Hide-A-Way Lake Club Inc.**'s notice of its intent to increase rates for water service in its certificated area in **Pearl River County** to the Commission Staff for hearing, report, and recommendation of an appropriate order.
- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) instructing **Entergy Mississippi LLC** to file an action plan addressing the recommendations of an independent auditor in regards to the fuel audit review of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC**. See Docket No 2019-AD-24.
- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) instructing Mississippi Power Co. to continue discussions with the independent auditor in regards to the fuel adjustment clause of **Mississippi Power Company**. No action plan is required at this time. See Docket No 2019-AD-25.



Last Week at the MPSC

- ☐ The **Commission** issued an [Order](#) striking **Dimension Renewable Energy's** written reply comments as untimely and more appropriate in a proceeding dealing directly with Community Solar.
- ☐ **Town of Flora** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to propose [new rates and fees](#) for water service in areas of **Madison County** located one mile beyond Flora corporate limits.
- ☐ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its third [motion](#) for extension of time to file its System Restoration Rider, Rate Schedule until September 30, 2021.
- ☐ The **Commission** executed a contract with **Del Sol Consulting** to perform an assessment of the Public Utility Infrastructure Review responses received from Mississippi's electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunication public utilities, conduct interviews with utility personnel and create written report of findings and recommendations.
- ☐ The **Commission's** [Request for Proposals](#) related to legal services closed on August 2. At least two entities submitted proposals to the Executive Director for review and consideration.



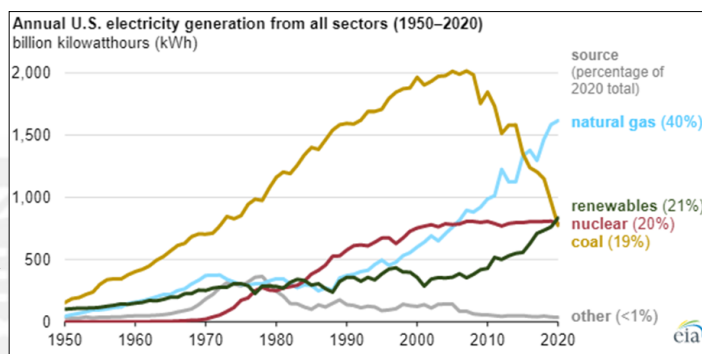
Other News

Understanding PURPA

[The PURPA Title II Compliance Manual 2.0 is here!](#) This updated manual reflects the significant changes FERC made to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) regulations in 2020 with Order Nos. 872 and 872-A. The introductory sections help acquaint new professionals with PURPA regulations and there is in-depth analysis of the changes and trends for more experienced professionals. NARUC and the American Public Power Association, the Edison Electric Institute, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association sponsored the updated manual, which was prepared by the law firm Thompson Coburn LLP.

Renewables Became the Second-Most Prevalent U.S. Electricity Source in 2020

In 2020, renewable energy sources (including wind, hydroelectric, solar, biomass, and geothermal energy) generated a record 834 billion kilowatthours (kWh) of electricity, or about 21% of all the electricity generated in the United States. Only natural gas (1,617 billion kWh)



produced more electricity than renewables in the United States in 2020. Renewables surpassed both nuclear (790 billion kWh) and coal (774 billion kWh) for the first time on record. This outcome in 2020 was due mostly to significantly less coal use in U.S. electricity generation and steadily increased use of wind and solar. However, coal use is expected to rebound in 2021.

Efficiency Remains a Cost-Effective Electricity Resource

Energy efficiency continues to be a low-cost way to meet electricity needs, according to a new study by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) with support from the U.S. Department of Energy. *"Still the One: Efficiency Remains a Cost-Effective Electricity Resource"* has confirmed that the average cost of saving electricity is less than the cost of producing it. But the new study provides additional evidence that energy efficiency programs for utility customers are delivering significant savings at times when electricity needs are greatest - and at a lower cost.

A free webinar on August 10, 2021, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Central, will discuss the findings. Register for the webinar here: https://lbnl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8yH_Wl58TIS9W0jUrd-HnA. Slides will be posted several days in advance of the webinar [here](#).

Help Wanted: MDA-ENRD Seeks Program Manager

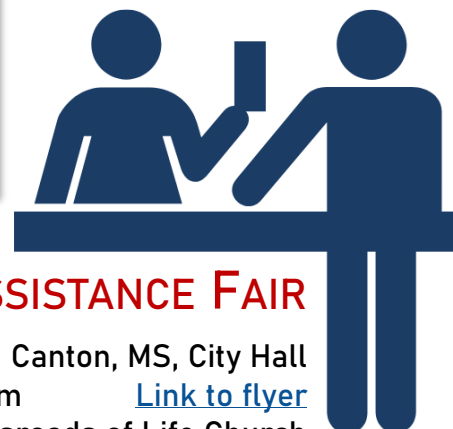
The MS Development Authority-Energy and Natural Resources Division is currently recruiting for the position of a MDA-Program Manager III - Time Limited, in its Hinds County location. The recruitment is open to agency employees as well as the general public and may be reviewed on the agency website: <https://www.mississippi.org/careers>. Applications can be submitted on-line at the Mississippi State Personnel Board (MSBP) website: <http://www.mspb.ms.gov>, Job Seekers, MDA-Program Manager III and Apply.

This work involves managing, marketing and executing ENRD's energy efficiency programs and involves providing analysis and research reports covering technical and policy issues related to energy efficiency. The position requires a combination of a technical knowledge base and the expertise to understand different financing mechanisms and investment sources.



Save the Date

2021 ENHANCE WORKSHOP AND
AWARDS LUNCHEON
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
The Westin Jackson
407 S. Congress Street, Jackson, MS 39201
Registration information will be
available soon at www.enhance.ms



RENTAL AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE FAIR

Friday, August 6: Canton, MS, City Hall
2 pm – 6 pm [Link to flyer](#)

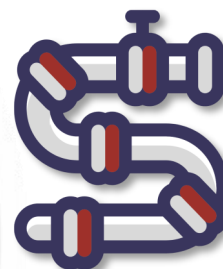
Saturday, August 7: Byram, MS, Crossroads of Life Church
9 am – 2 pm [Link to flyer](#)

Our Pipeline Safety Division completed **4** construction inspections in the Central District during the month of July 2021.

The total costs for construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of July is approximately **\$1.56 million**.

“Reporting of Construction Work”- The rule is found in Chapter 57.1: All Construction work involving gas facilities in which the estimated cost of proposed facilities is in excess of eight thousand dollars are related facilities that would be governed by the Federal Minimum Safety Requirements, will be reported in writing, or via telephone to the MS Public Service Commission prior to starting date of such construction. (There are exceptions for emergencies.)

The Commission encourages all intra-state natural gas operators to comply with the rule.



Last week, our
Consumer Complaint
Specialists handled a
total of **17** complaints
in the Central District.

Electric Companies	12
Natural Gas	1
Telecommunications	4

Last week, the Central District received a total of **352** 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.