

September 9, 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 Lumber in Shuqualak



In baseball terms, “bringing the lumber” generally refers to getting an extra-base hit or more. It can also mean to play aggressively. If that is the case, the leadership at [Shuqualak Lumber Company](#) knocked it out of the park with their decision to make a major league investment in energy-saving technologies and measures.

Shuqualak Lumber recently completed two projects that will save the company approximately \$115,000 per year on natural gas costs. Shuqualak Lumber installed a new, energy-efficient boiler system that uses modern technology to increase thermal efficiency and reduce the quantity of fuel the boiler consumes each day. Shuqualak Lumber also had a large amount of uninsulated steam and condensate piping that ran to and from the plants five lumber drying kilns. The exposed piping was 330 degrees Fahrenheit on the bare pipe and was experiencing significant heat loss which caused the boiler to work harder to produce the needed steam. By insulating the piping network, temperatures were more consistent, heat loss was reduced by more than half, which in turn greatly reduced the load on the facility’s boilers. Shuqualak Lumber utilizes both natural gas and sawdust-fired boilers.

Innovation doesn’t stop at the company’s boiler and piping systems. Shuqualak Lumber has invested in state-of-the-art milling, planning, grading and sorting systems that has expanded production capacity to more than 125 million board feet per year.



Matt Davidson, Atmos Energy Vice President of Rates & Regulatory Affairs in MS; Commissioner Brent Bailey; Shuqualak Lumber President Bill Thomas; Shuqualak Lumber Vice President John Thomas; Lance Coe, Industrial Accounts Manager for Atmos Energy in MS

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Shuqualak Lumber has also implemented a materials recycling and repurposing system that captures sawdust to use as boiler fuel, wood chips which are sold to the makers of cellulosic fibers used in baby diapers, and tree bark which is sold to a mulch manufacturer. Shuqualak's dimensional lumber products are sold locally and around the world.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to visit the Shuqualak Lumber mill in Noxubee County to tour the facility, observe the energy-saving projects, and help present to Shuqualak Lumber officials a rebate check of \$68,160! That's right.



The new energy-efficient boiler system uses modern technology to increase thermal efficiency and reduce the quantity of fuel the boiler consumes each day.

The projects mentioned above qualified for the [Atmos Energy SmartChoice Program](#) that rewards customers who make energy efficient improvements at their commercial business or industrial facility. In addition to the rebate, these projects will help build the company's bottom line through reduced expenditures on natural gas fuel for years to come.



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Energy efficiency is a proven, cost-effective way to lower energy bills, sustain and create good jobs, reduce energy use and waste, and moderate environmental impacts. Utility-administered energy efficiency programs have yielded significant energy and economic benefits to the utility system and to ratepayers. At the

Commission, I remain committed to helping residential, business and industrial utility customers improve their energy efficiency performance through the Integrated Resources Planning Rule. Check with your electric and natural gas utility to see if they offer energy efficiency programs.

And remember that October 6, 2021, is Energy Efficiency Day. Make plans to recognize October 6 by implementing at least one action that will reduce energy waste at your home or work.

Highlights of the September 9 Docket Meeting

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on September 9, 2021, to consider the following agenda items:

- ☑ The **Commission** considered and granted an [Order](#) approving **CenterPoint Energy's** annual Rate Regulation Adjustment (RRA) Rider that resulted in an increase of \$1.47 per month for the average residential natural gas customer.
- ☑ The **Commission** [approved](#) **CenterPoint Energy's** request to revise the RRA Rider tariff language.
- ☑ The **Commission** reviewed **CenterPoint Energy's** Supplemental Growth Rider and [approved](#) a \$0.07 per month reduction for the typical residential gas customer.
- ☑ **Entergy Mississippi** filed a request to adjust its Ad Valorem Tax Adjustment (ATA) Rider factor from 1.4284% to 3.3682%, thus increasing the ATA Rider by \$2.15 per month for the typical residential customer using 1000 kWh. The **Commission** [approved](#) the increase in the ATA Rider.
- ☑ The **Commission** [approved](#) **Spire Mississippi's** Application for its initial Energy Efficiency Program Portfolio Plan. Spire will offer energy efficiency programs to residential, business and industrial customers. The program will increase rates by \$0.26 per month for the average residential gas customer.
- ☑ The **Commission** granted an [Order](#) approving the sale and transfer of a **Morgan Construction** sewer system to **Wilco Properties**. The **Commission** also issued an [Order](#) approving a Supplemental CPCN for sewer service provided by Wilco at the same location.
- ☑ The **Commission** approved a motion for Commission Legal Staff to draft contracts that outline the scope of work and other matters related to the previously executed Legal Service RFP.



- ☑ The **Commission** approved the [Order](#) that outlines recommendations that Mississippi Power Co. shall adopt to support the development of future Integrated Resource Plans.
- ☑ The **Commission** agreed to reschedule the October Docket Meeting to October 14 at 10 am CT.

Last Week at the MPSC

- ☞ **Rankin County** filed a [Motion to Intervene](#) in regards to the Fuel Audit of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC**.
- ☞ The **Public Utilities Staff** and **CenterPoint Energy** filed their [Joint Stipulation](#) in regards to **CenterPoint's** proposed changes and revisions to its Rate Regulation Adjustment Rider language, including the discontinuation of the Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Rider.
- ☞ The **Public Utilities Staff** and **CenterPoint Energy** also filed their [Joint Stipulation](#) in regards to **CenterPoint's** changes in its Rate Regulation Adjustment Rider and of the Initial filing of its Weather Normalization Adjustment-Rider. The change resulted in a reduction in expenses and rate base.
- ☞ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Action Plan for Fuel Audit Report](#) covering the period from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. The Action Plan responds to the recommendations of the auditor.
- ☞ The **Public Utilities Staff** prepared Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment Audit Reports for the period of May 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021 for the following utilities: [Atmos Energy](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire Mississippi Inc.](#)
- ☞ The **Public Utilities Staff** filed its [Request for Extension of Time](#) to file comments in response to **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Integrated Resource Plan.
- ☞ **Central Electric Power Association**, an intervenor, filed [correspondence](#) in regards to **Pearl River Solar Park LLC's** petition for certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction, ownership, and operation of a solar electric generating facility in **Scott County**.
- ☞ The **Commission** filed a [Notice of Hearing](#) for **Cooperative Energy** for certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing it to acquire, construct, own and operate electrical transmission line facilities in **Jasper** and **Jones County**.
- ☞ The **Commission** filed another [Notice of Hearing](#) for **Cooperative Energy** for certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing it to acquire, construct, own and operate electrical transmission lines and a switching station in **Covington County**.
- ☞ The **Commission** filed a [Notice of Hearing](#) for **MS Solar 4, LLC** for certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of a solar electric generating facility in **Covington County**.
- ☞ **Great River Utility Operating Co.** filed its [evidence of closing](#) certain sales and transfers confirming the following sewer system transfers to **Great River: Pecan Village, LLC; S2 Environmental, LLC; Affordable Homes of Vicksburg, Inc.; West Coast Lumber, Inc.; Cedar Creek Development Inc.; Enviroserve, Inc.; Ironwood Utilities, LLC; Westbrook Construction Company of Oxford, LLC, and Twelve Oaks Utility Company**



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **37** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	19
Telecommunications	15
Natural Gas	2
Water/Sewer	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **233** 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.