

September 22, 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*

National

# CLEAN ENERGY WEEK 2021



**N**ational Clean Energy Week (NCEW) is an annual awareness week to recognize the value of clean energy including abundant job opportunities, economic growth, energy independence, consumer choice, lower energy prices, and a cleaner environment. Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, NCEW helps to focus attention on the policies, industries, and innovations that power our daily lives while producing no or little greenhouse gas emissions.

The week of September 20-24, 2021, brings together leaders, advocates, policymakers, and trade associations who are dedicated to reducing emissions while growing the economy through smart policy and technological innovation. NCEW encompasses broad and diverse energy sources, including solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, nuclear, natural gas, biomass, carbon capture, and waste-to-energy. NCEW also recognizes rapidly accelerating innovation within energy efficiency and energy storage.

While you might expect me to fill this newsletter with all sorts of accolades regarding the opportunities to grow the clean market and advance supportive policies in the state, you know who else recognizes the important role that clean energy development plays in Mississippi? Governor Tate Reeves, that's who!

Governor Reeves issued a [proclamation](#) recognizing Clean Energy Week in Mississippi. In his proclamation, Governor Reeves praises the programs throughout the state that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy and the role that energy sector innovations will have on Mississippi's prosperity and security.



This year has demonstrated the growing interest of clean energy developers' willingness to invest in Mississippi and locate large-scale projects in the state. Just last week, I approved the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the 175 MW Pearl River Solar Park in Scott County, a \$235 million project. Utility-scale solar projects have also been approved in Lowndes County and Covington County this year. Back in June, the Commission granted the CPCN for a 200 MW wind turbine facility in Tunica County. A company recently visited my office to inform us of at least 4 proposed hydropower projects. And the Commission just approved the brand-new energy efficiency programs portfolio proposed by an investor-owned natural gas utility.



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# OTHER EVENTS

There are numerous other events, activities and conferences that are also taking place this

week. Global leaders are gathering in New York City for Climate Week to continue discussions on how the world's nations plan to reduce emissions in line with the Paris Agreement. Clean energy development is a key plan component for the U.S. and other countries to achieve emission-reduction targets while creating jobs and other economic benefits.

## National Drive Electric Week™



The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual [National Drive Electric Week](#) will take place from September 25 to October 3 to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. A key feature of Drive Electric Week are the ride & drive events taking place across the country. An event search finds numerous ride & drive events in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Unfortunately, no events are listed for Mississippi. I plan to take a deeper dive on the topic of electric vehicles in a future newsletter.

# Embrace the BENEFITS

As I wrote in my [September 23, 2020, newsletter](#) of the same topic, "clean energy" can mean different things to different people in different parts of the U.S. and

every energy resource has its pros and cons, costs and benefits. But what I do know is that clean energy can create jobs, expand our economy, strengthen energy security, and conserve our environment. We must keep an open mind and work together to facilitate the deployment of an energy portfolio that creates the greatest benefits for now and the next generations of Mississippians.



## Other News

Soon after Hurricane Ida made landfall and moved across the U.S., it became apparent that the damage to the electrical infrastructure system in south Louisiana was extensive. Over 1 million people lost power and some people in the hardest hit, more remote areas of Louisiana are still without critical utility services.

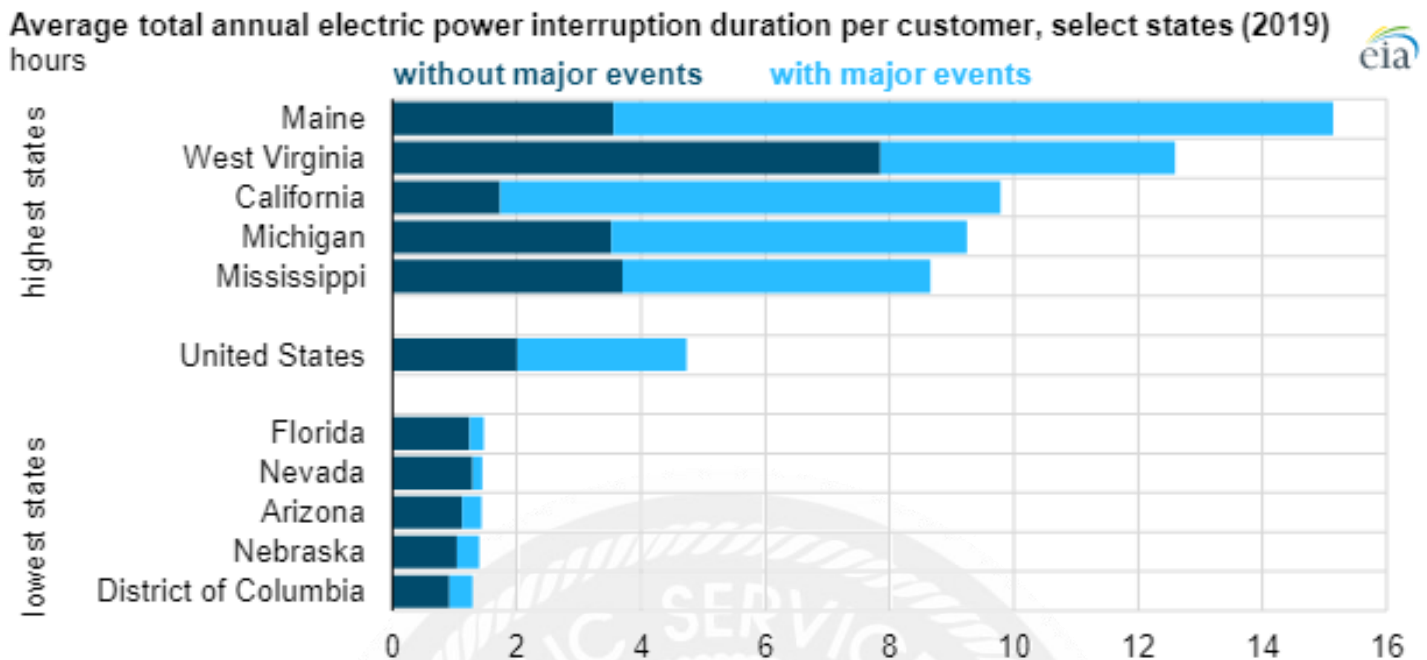
Interruptions in electricity service to customers vary in frequency and duration across the nearly 3,000 electric distribution systems that serve about 155 million customers in the United States. These interruptions are generally attributed to major events such as hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, ice storms or severe storms. However, interruptions can also be caused by traffic accidents, animal incursions, equipment failures, falling trees or other causes.

In 2019, the latest Energy Information Administration data available, U.S. customers experienced an average of 3.2 hours of interruptions during major events and 1.5 hours of interruptions without major events, or nearly 5 hours total. That number is anticipated to jump significantly for 2021 when considering the crippling impacts of the February 2021 winter storm, the wildfires in the western states and Hurricane Ida.






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One metric used to measure the reliability of U.S. electric utilities is the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI), which measures the total time an average customer experiences a non-momentary power interruption (longer than 5 minutes) in a one-year period. As you can see from the chart below, Mississippi ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the average total annual electric power outage duration per customer at nearly 9 hours. Of course, Mississippi is prone to major weather events. However, when taking major weather events out of the equation, Mississippi then ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for average outage duration per customers. Another metric is the



System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI), an index that measures the frequency of interruptions. I hope to provide that information per the next release of EIA data in October. The Commission will continue to encourage all electric utilities to pursue best operating and maintenance practices for its energy delivery system to ensure reliability. A reliable system is important for business operations, economic development and, of course, customer satisfaction!

## Last Week at the MPSC

-  **The Commission** issued a [Recommended Order](#) per the report of the Hearing Examiner, for the Petition of **Pearl River Solar Park, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing Construction, Ownership, and Operation of a 175 MW Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Scott County**.
-  **BCM One, Inc., Wholesale Carrier Services, Inc., and BCM One Group Holdings, Inc.** filed their [Joint Application](#) for Approval of Transfer of Control for an internal corporate reorganization and ultimate control will not change as a result of the restructuring.
-  **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Response in Opposition](#) to **Rankin County's** Motion to Intervene in regards to the Fuel Audit of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC**. **Rankin County** then filed its [Reply](#) to Entergy's Response in Opposition to Motion to Intervene of **Rankin County**.



# FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



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- ✎ **Belzoni Cable, LLC** filed its [Application](#) and supporting information for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Competitive Facilities-Based and Resold Local and Interexchange Services throughout the State.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** submitted its [Petition for Accounting Order](#) requesting the authority to establish a regulatory asset for certain hurricane restoration expenses.
- ✎ **CBTS Technology Solutions, LLC** filed its [Notice of Consummation](#) and it is now an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of **Red Fiber Parent LLC**.
- ✎ **CPC Engle Holdings, Inc.** and **Combined Public Communications, LLC** filed their [Joint Application](#) to Transfer Indirect Control of **Combined Public Communications, LLC** from **CPC Engle Holdings, Inc.** to the **Combined Public Communications Employee Stock Ownership Trust**.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to make Changes in Rates and Schedules related to its proposed pilot to construct, own, operate and maintain up to seven (7) direct current fast charging stations for electric vehicles ("EVs") along interstate highway corridors in western Mississippi. Each station will feature at least two chargers. Entergy MS proposes a rate of \$0.30 per kWh for EV drivers utilizing the service.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its monthly [Formulary Facilities Charge](#) (FFC) Cost Factor Update consistent with **Commission** requirements.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Notice](#) of the Itta Bena Switching Station whereby it intends to install a new 115 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line "in and out" from an appropriate cut-in location along **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** existing **Greenwood-to-Indianola** 115 kV transmission line to the location of **Cooperative Energy's** proposed new Itta Bena 115 kV Switching Station.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Notice](#) of the Schlater Substation Expansion project whereby it intends to install facilities at **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Schlater Substation that are necessary to accommodate the addition of new transmission lines connecting **Cooperative Energy's** rebuilt Itta Bena 115 kV Switching Station to the Schlater Substation.



The MPSC's Special Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, September 29. The meeting is open to the public and will be streamed online. Meeting notice: <https://www.psc.ms.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/NOTICE-SPECIAL-MEETING-9-29-21.pdf>



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **38** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	29
Telecommunications	4
Water/Sewer	4
Natural Gas	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **354** 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.*