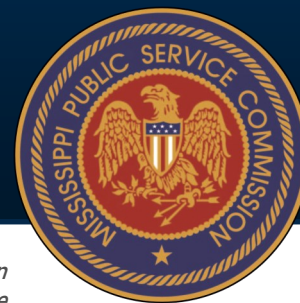


December 29, 2021



## 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*

## Time for Reflection or Time for Prediction?

Aside from the holidays' hustle and bustle, the last week of December is exploited by many as a time to reflect on and document the accomplishments, failures or key events of the current year. It is

also a time that folks look deep into their crystal balls to summon bold, controversial or obvious predictions for the new year that is just days away. Me? Well, I am more keen to drawing upon past experiences and lessons learned and apply them in a way that gives me confidence in how I approach new issues and make decisions that are intended to produce broad benefits with the least inverse impacts.

2021 was supposed to be the year we would beat COVID-19. Yet, we enter 2022 amongst a surge in COVID variants and more questions about prevention, management and treatment of the virus. We enter 2022 with a surge in monetary resources at the state level. Yet, a clear plan for utilization of these dollars has not yet been revealed. Many more issues and challenges will arise in 2022 and many will carry over from 2021. We must be ready meet them head on.

As we look ahead to 2022 and what it potentially holds in store for us all, please know that the Central District is here to assist anyway we can. At the same time, we look forward to your participation as key stakeholders in matters that will be coming before the Commission.


While I am not going to get into the game of making predictions for the next year, I would like to look back at some of our favorite newsletters from 2021 (see below) as a reminder about the various topics that we have brought awareness to and that will likely resurface in the coming year. We hope that you enjoy this last issue of the year and agree with the selection of our top five favorites. If you have another favorite, please share that with us. Be safe over the New Year weekend and we will be back in the first week of 2022 with our next newsletter.

# OUR TOP 5 FAVORITE NEWSLETTERS FROM 2021

Mississippi Needs  
Accurate,  
Comprehensive  
Broadband Mapping  
January 27, 2021

January 27, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMISSIONER  
BRENT BAILEY  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE

 **Mississippi Needs Accurate, Comprehensive Broadband Mapping**

A 2019 study by Microsoft showed the significant disparity between reported broadband availability in Mississippi and actual usage. The study, which looked at real life download speeds of connected devices, found that many Mississippi counties, particularly rural counties and those with low per capita incomes, often have single-digit percentages of individuals connected at the FCC standard of 25/3 Mbps. The numbers are clear: Mississippi's poorest and most rural counties today lack meaningful access to broadband services at the 25/3 Mbps level. Unfortunately, FCC data overstates the scope of broadband availability across the U.S., including Mississippi.

County	Population	Reported Access	Actual Usage	Pop. w/ access	Percent Rural
Bell	14,185	88%	10%	11,763	54%
Chickasaw	9,684	52%	7%	6,779	100%
Clayton	29,649	33%	4%	10,418	42%
Hinds	245,245	10%	14%	34,334	15%
Holmes	15,104	67%	1%	10,384	86%
Humphreys	5,375	46%	0%	2,471	40%
Itawamba	14,456	7%	5%	7,228	100%
Jefferson	7,736	55%	4%	3,094	100%
Kemper	15,456	12%	12%	18,372	100%
Leflore	75,317	46%	6%	4,556	48%
Lumb	22,762	48%	3%	22,325	81%

\* FCC's 2019 Broadband Deployment Report  
\*\* FCC's 2019 Broadband Deployment Report  
\*\*\* FCC's 2019 Broadband Deployment Report  
\*\*\*\* U.S. Census Bureau (2019)

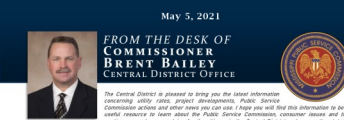
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# FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



Continued...



**Putting the Spotlight on Solar Power in Mississippi**

May 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. Please see what this newsletter has to offer. It is a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the Commission's work on behalf of the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Please sign up for delivery to your e-mail or print copy.

Since April 2020 when the Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) approved the 100 MW Sandover County Solar Project, LLC, the MPSC has also approved the following utility scale solar projects:

- Cape Creek Solar (Clarke County) - 78.5 MW
- Moon Shot Solar (Hancock County) - 78.5 MW
- Walnut Grove Solar (Leake County) - 1.285 MW & 5.14 MWh Battery Energy Storage (BES)
- MS Solar 5 (Lowndes County) - 200 MW & 50 MWh BES

The combined investment value for the four projects listed above is \$367.8 million. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, Mississippi has installed just under 320 MW of solar, ranking 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation to date. All totaled, the four projects above will more than double current installed solar capacity in the state.

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**Putting the  
Spotlight on Solar  
Power in Mississippi**  
May 5, 2021



**Celebrate National Safe Digging Day with the MPSC and the Mississippi 811 Team**

August 11, 2021

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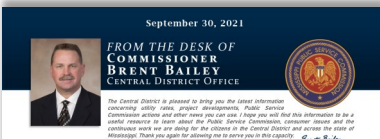
National Safe Digging Day is Aug. 11 (also known as 811 Day) and serves as an important reminder that everyone, whether a homeowner with a shovel or a professional excavator with an excavator, must "Call Before You Dig." It is not just a slogan, it is the law. Contact the Mississippi 811 Call Center at least two working days in advance of a digging project. That way the required time for utilities to respond to your request before putting a shovel in the ground.

Since January 2021, Mississippi 811 agents have received 281,083 calls or a 14.1% increase over 2020 and processed 201,465 tickets, including virtual repair requests which resulted in nearly 1,367,244 utility locates being distributed to the respective Mississippi 811 Member Utility Companies. Mississippi 811 currently has 1,053 utility members.

Don't make a judgment call, make a phone call. Know what's below. Every time you plan to dig, dial 8 1 1 (within calling area) within the state of Mississippi or 800.227.8777. It's free. It's fast. It's the law. Contact the Mississippi 811 Call Center at least two working days before you plan to begin any excavation activity. You can also send an email to [811@psc.ms.gov](mailto:811@psc.ms.gov). It's free. It's fast. It's the law. In the fall of 2019, an estimated 530 million excavations related to damage to underground facilities occurred in the U.S. costing approximately \$30 million in damage and losses. Also, underground utility damage can cost lives due to electrocution, explosion and other. Don't be a statistic. Make the call.

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**Celebrate National  
Safe Digging Day with  
the MPSC and the  
Mississippi 811 Team**  
August 11, 2021



**Is An Electric Vehicle In Your Future?**

September 30, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF  
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Automobiles are as intertwined in American history, culture, and innovation as almost anything else imaginable. Vehicles give us freedom, autonomy, an image, and confidence. For well over 100 years, cars, light trucks, SUVs, and vans have carried us home from the hospital, to and from school, to and from work, on vacation and wherever other errands we needed to run. For that entire time, but for a very few exceptions, the automobile's drive train has been powered by the internal combustion engine fueled primarily with petroleum based fuels. While the automobile has helped to advance many of the great things that America is known for today, its use has significant costs associated with roadway fatalities, tailpipe emissions, sourcing of fuel and general maintenance.

Despite the known social, environmental, public health and geopolitical costs of the traditional automobile, Americans are remarkably attached to our cars and light trucks. I love my GMC Duramax. So, if we are not willing to give up our cars, the known impacts, would people consider adopting vehicle technologies that are less impactful - such as an electric vehicle?

There are approximately 287 million registered vehicles in the U.S. The figure includes passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. (U.S. population is 333,000,000 Americans purchase roughly 17 million petroleum fueled vehicles each year. In contrast, electric vehicles (EVs) will comprise of nearly 600,000 of vehicles sold in 2021. EV sales increased 5-fold of the last 5 years.

Are Americans now trending towards purchasing an electric vehicle? The 2021 Global Automotive Consumer Survey found that 41% of U.S. drivers said they would consider an alternative powered car for their next vehicle.

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**Is An Electric Vehicle  
in Your Future?**  
September 30, 2021



**Another Day, Another Spam Call**

November 10, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF  
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Smartphones have become a valuable asset in doing business, connecting with friends and family, taking photos, following social media and more. However, we sometimes want to turn our smartphones out the window due to the number of robocalls and spam calls that many of us get over the course of a day. For the first 10 months of 2021, 6.8 billion robocalls were placed nationwide. That is about 130 calls per person on average. Mississippi received 60 million robocalls in October, averaging 13.4 calls per person or 13 calls made per second. Well, it is time to fight back!

If you have not yet done so, register your number on the "No Call List." Residential customers can register a home or wireless number. Business customers can register business numbers. After you register your number, consumers who continue to receive unwanted telemarketing or fraudulent spam calls or text messages may file a complaint with the Public Service Commission in writing, over the telephone, using the Mississippi No Call App, or via the MPSC website. By reporting spam calls, we can build our case against the originator of the call and possibly against those carriers that allow fraudulent calls to move through the network. So far this year, Mississippi consumers have filed 12,848 complaints to use No Call Specifications in the Central District.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) has been strengthened its partnership with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division to refine our process and protocols for investigating spam calls. We are also engaging local, state and federal law enforcement where possible to pursue criminal measures for doing so. We are also in the process of acquiring a new and improved No Call data base, reporting and tracking platform.

**Use Technology to Protect Yourself**

Aside from taking the steps outlined above, there are tools within your phone, offered by your phone service provider, or offered by third party apps, that can help robocalls and spam calls at bay. Android phones have varying options for blocking numbers depending on the operating system. Features include Smart Call, Call Screen and Do Not Disturb. On iOS phones, you can reach the Silence Unknown Callers feature.

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**Another Day, Another  
Spam Call**  
November 10, 2021

## Other News

### New Report Quantifies Grid Reliability and Resilience Impacts of Energy Efficiency

A new technical brief, [Quantifying Grid Reliability and Resilience Impacts of Energy Efficiency: Examples and Opportunities](#), explains how utility planning processes today can value energy efficiency's contributions to electricity system reliability and resilience and recommends ways to overcome current limitations in considering those impacts. Energy efficiency benefits can be found in the bulk power system, energy distribution system and demand-side management measures. These can have significant economic and societal impacts whether integrated together or on their own. Treating energy efficiency as an energy resource helps utilities better track and capture the full value of efficiency measures for the benefit of all customers.

### New Report Identifies Pathways for Greater Utilization of Distributed Battery Resources

A new report titled [Opportunities and Challenges to Capturing Distributed Battery Value via Retail Utility Rates and Programs](#) provides a high-level assessment on how electric utilities can best align their retail rates and incentive-based programs with electricity system needs in order to encourage beneficial adoption and dispatch of distributed batteries. Distributed batteries can provide a number of different services beyond solely the individual customer that could improve grid operation at both the distribution and bulk system levels.





*Continued...*

## FERC Orders Transmission Providers to Implement Ambient-Adjusted Line Ratings

FERC issued [Order 881](#) which requires the use of Ambient-Adjusted Ratings (AARs) on all lines impacted by air temperature in both RTO regions and non-RTO regions and requires seasonal line ratings for longer-term transmission requests. The rule also requires transmission owners (TOs) to update their ratings at least hourly and requires that RTOs be able to accommodate even more frequent changes to line ratings. Importantly, TOs will be required to submit unique emergency and static ratings. The Organization of MISO States has long supported the use of AARs and supports a news docket to study [Dynamic Line Ratings](#), which are updated much more frequently than AARs and will help expand power transmission capacity across the grid.

## President Signs Executive Order on Federal Sustainability Lead-By-Example

Earlier this month, President Biden signed an [Executive Order](#) to "catalyze America's clean energy economy through federal sustainability." The Executive Order directs the federal government to use its scale and procurement power to achieve five goals:

- 100 percent carbon free electricity by 2030, at least half of which will be locally supplied clean energy to meet 24/7 demand;
- 100 percent zero-emission vehicle acquisitions by 2035, including 100 percent zero-emission light-duty vehicle acquisitions by 2027;
- Net-zero emissions from federal procurement no later than 2050, including a Buy Clean policy to promote use of construction materials with lower embodied emissions;
- A net-zero emissions building portfolio by 2045, including a 50 percent emissions reduction by 2032; and
- Net-zero emissions from overall federal operations by 2050, including a 65 percent emissions reduction by 2030.

The White House also released a detailed description of this plan: [The Federal Sustainability Plan: Catalyzing America's Clean Energy Industries and Creating Jobs Through Federal Sustainability](#).

***Wishing you all a Happy New Year!***



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **19** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	8
Telecommunications	8
Natural Gas	2
Water/Sewer	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **145** 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.*