

December 8, 2021



FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMISSIONER  
BRENT BAILEY  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



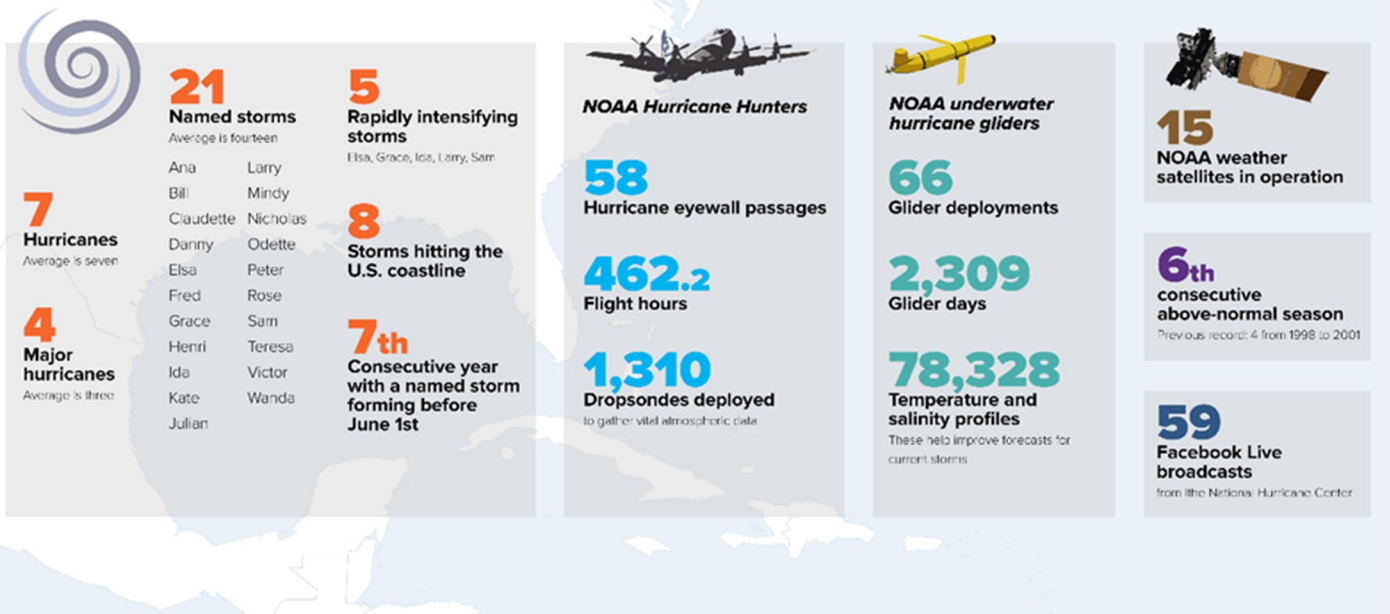
*The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues 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*

# Active 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season Officially Ends

November 30 represented the official end to the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane season. The 2021 season produced 21 named storms, including seven hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or greater) of which four were major hurricanes (winds of 111 mph or greater). See the infographic below for highlights, facts and statistics from the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

## 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season by the numbers



For 2021, the Colorado State University (CSU) hurricane prediction team predicted 17 named tropical cyclone formations, including eight hurricanes with four of those becoming major hurricanes. The NOAA Climate Prediction Center had estimated 15-21 named storms, 7-10 hurricanes and 3-5 major hurricanes. (Over the past 70 years, the average number of named storms per year is 11.)



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This year was the third most active year on record in terms of named storms. It marks the sixth consecutive above-normal Atlantic hurricane season, and this was the first time on record that two consecutive hurricane seasons exhausted the list of [21 storm names](#). The season started early with the first named storm — Tropical Storm Ana — forming before the season's official June 1 start date. It was the seventh year in a row that the season began prematurely. The last hurricane of the season was Sam, which formed on October 1, while the last tropical storm was Wanda, which formed on November 5.

Hurricane Ida led to severe disruptions to energy infrastructure, including electric transmission systems and oil and gas production activities. Hurricane Ida caused an estimated \$64.5 billion in damage and surpassed the cost of all the 2020 hurricanes combined. Three other named storms – Elsa, Fred and Nicholas – each caused more than \$1 billion in damages. In total, this year's hurricane season is estimated to have caused about \$70 billion in damages and killed more than 160 people, according to NOAA.



## Regional News

### The Top 10 Solar States Include Four from the Southeast

The early days of solar developments were driven by geography and politics. Today, vibrant, consistent markets and stable policy matter more to solar developers. Combinations of policy, politics, markets and geography can be found in the 10 states with the most solar capacity.

Among the top ten states are Texas, Florida, North Carolina and Georgia. Texas is No. 2 on the list (following California) and currently has 11,063 MW in total solar capacity. Texas has lots of sun, lots of land and lots of corporate buyers of clean energy.

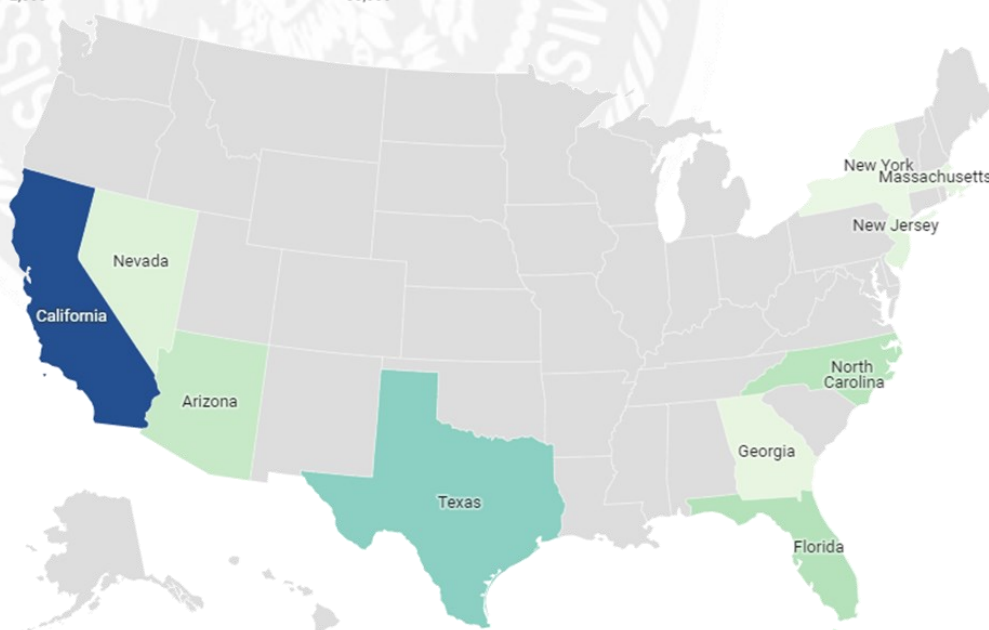
Florida comes in at No. 3 with 7,681 MW solar capacity. North Carolina's 7,228 MW is good enough for No. 4 on the list. Georgia slides into the top 10 at No. 9 with 3,249 MW.

#### Top 10 solar states

U.S. states with the most installed solar power capacity

Total solar capacity in megawatts through June 2021

2,500 33,000





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Several other states could soon be knocking on the door of the top ten. Solar developers are raising capital and making plans for large, utility-scale projects in states that are not normally associated with robust clean energy development, such as Arkansas, **Mississippi** and Pennsylvania. Solar growth is nationwide and creating job opportunities along the way.



## Other News

### US Department of Energy Seeks Feedback on Voluntary Nuclear Waste Storage

The Department of Energy (DoE) is seeking feedback on a proposed new process to allow communities to volunteer to store nuclear waste. The new process is called “consent-based siting” for the interim storage of spent nuclear fuel. The DoE hopes to identify multiple communities that are willing to temporarily store commercial nuclear waste for compensation and other incentives. This will allow for removal of spent nuclear fuel from reactor sites, provide useful research opportunities, and build trust and confidence with stakeholders and the public by demonstrating a willingness of communities to host managed nuclear waste. Stakeholders interested in responding to the [Request for Information](#) will help inform the process for siting federal facilities. About 86,000 metric tons of commercial spent nuclear fuel is stored on-site at 75 operating or shutdown nuclear power plants in 33 states, an amount that grows by about 2,000 metric tons each year.

### Manufacturers Increase Savings and Cut Emissions with EPA’s ENERGY STAR® Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the 580 manufacturing plants participating in the ENERGY STAR Industry Challenge achieved significant energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. On average, plants reduced their energy intensity by 19 percent within an average of two years, reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 17 million tons, and saved more than \$43 million in energy costs. About 60 businesses and organizations have participated in EPA ENERGY STAR programs. See the [Mississippi ENERGY STAR Fact Sheet](#) for more info.



## Highlights from the December 7 Monthly Docket Meeting

*The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on December 7, 2021, to consider the following [agenda](#) items:*

- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) Approving **Mississippi Power Company’s** Notice of Intent to amend its System Restoration Rider, Rate Schedule (SRR). **Mississippi Power Company** is setting the Property Damage Reserve target balance to \$75 million with an annual accrual rate of \$8 million. A residential customer with monthly usage of 1,000 kWh will experience an increase in billing of \$0.96 per month until the \$75 million target balance is met. This will begin with the January 2022 billing cycle. The SRR was established in 2006. However, SRR has been inactive for the past several years. The severe weather events of 2020 and 2021 cost Mississippi Power over \$70 million and resulted in a negative Reserve balance of \$16.4 million. Through an accounting order approved by the MPSC in October 2021, the Reserve fund was replenished to \$33 million.





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- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) in regard to **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** for Approval of an Amendment to the Agreement for Service with **Nissan North America, Inc.** The Second Amendment extends the expiration date of the Agreement of Service while recovering sufficient revenues to meet incremental costs of service to **Nissan** and maintaining a price sufficiently competitive to retain **Nissan**.
- ☑ The **Commission** entered an [Order](#) approving transfer of control of **Onvoy, LLC**. The proposed transaction allows **Sinch US** to acquire all shares of **Onvoy, Neutral Tandem, Broadvox, and ANPI** (collectively known as **Onvoy Holdings**). All transferees will remain indirect subsidiaries of **Onvoy Holdings**, so the transaction is an indirect transfer of control.
- ☑ The **Commission** also entered an [Order](#) approving transfer of control of **Combined Public Communications, LLC**. The result of this Transaction will not result in any changes to existing rates, terms, and conditions.
- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) granting the Petition of **South Central Water Association, Inc.** for a Supplemental Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it to Operate and Maintain a Water System in a Specified Area of **Hinds County**. The purpose of **South Central's** filing is to obtain a Supplemental Certificate to extend its existing water system to the **John Bell Williams Airport**, owned and operated by **Hinds Community College**. The requested expansion will allow for water service to an extended airport runway, to additional hangar spaces and to other facilities to accommodate larger commercial aircraft. Approximately ten commercial customers will be served within a reasonable period if **South Central's** Petition is approved. **South Central** anticipates that development will begin within the next four years.
- ☑ The **Commission** entered a [Final Order](#) approving the Petition of **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** for Approval of the Sale and Transfer of **Buena Vista Water System** in **Desoto County** and a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Provision of Water Service. Approximately 300 customers are affected.
- ☑ The **Commission** also entered a [Final Order](#) approving the Petition of **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** for Approval of the Sale and Transfer of 26 wastewater systems and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Provision of Wastewater Service for facilities in **Desoto, Lamar, Lee, Lowndes, Oktibbeha, and Tishomingo Counties**. Approximately 2,700 customers are affected.
- ☑ The **Commission** entered Orders Reopening and Referring Dockets to a Hearing Examiner for Investigation and Show Cause Hearing for Cancelling Certificates of [Water Service](#) and [Sewer Service](#) being provided by **Horizon Utilities, LLC**. **Horizon** no longer serves any water and/or sewer customers within its certificated area, and has, in fact, entirely ceased its operations as a water utility in MS.
- ☑ The **Commission** entered an [Order Referring](#) the Petition of **Wildflower Solar, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing the Construction, Ownership, and Operation of a Solar Electric Generating facility in **Desoto County** to the Northern District Commissioner for hearing.
- ☑ The **Commission** entered an [Order Referring](#) the Petition of **Troy E. Cobb, Inc. d/b/a Oak Grove Utilities** to Commission Legal Staff for hearing.
- ☑ The **Commission** entered an [Order Referring](#) the Notice of **City of Guntown Water Utility Company** of Intent to Increase Rates for Service in its Certificated Area in **Lee County** to the Northern District Commissioner for hearing.



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- ☑ The **Commission** entered an [Order Referring](#) the Notice of **Town of Edwards** of Intent to Increase Rates for Service in its Certificated Area in **Hinds County** to the Central District Commissioner for hearing.
- ☑ The **Commission** entered this [Order](#) following the submission of **Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.'s (MISO)** comments and responses to the requests made by the Commission in its October 27, 2021 Order. On November 24, 2021, MISO submitted comments and responses to the requests made by the Commission in its October 27, 2021, Order. After consideration, the **Commission** found that **MISO's** comments and responses contain certain deficiencies that the **Commission** will address such by way of additional data requests to **MISO**.
- ☑ The **Commission** agreed to reschedule the regular January Docket meeting to Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 10 am at the Woolfolk State Office Building.
- ☑ Additional item added to the agenda: The **Commission** voted to refer the matter of **Marshall Utilities** to the Northern District Commissioner for investigation and action.
- ☑ The **Commission** also held a hearing and proceeded to enter an [Order](#) approving **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to expand and upgrade the Franklin 500 kV Substation in **Franklin County**. The cost of the Proposed Electrical Facilities is estimated to be \$13.8 million and will be reflected in **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** rates through the operation of their Formula Rate Plan. The estimated first year impact to rates is approximately \$0.15 per 1,000 kWh on a typical residential energy bill.

## Last Week at the MPSC

- ☞ **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Establish Initial and Temporary Rates for Wastewater Disposal service for the 60 customers of **Lake Forest** subdivision in **Warren County**. For this system, **Great River** intends to establish an initial flat rate of \$27.00 per month. The initial and temporary rates proposed reflect the reasonable estimated cost of providing service, but they do not reflect the actual final cost of service. **Great River** is also seeking to establish temporary rates for systems in [Oktibbeha](#) and [Lafayette](#) Counties.
- ☞ **Peerless Network of Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Joint Application](#) for Approval of Indirect Transfer of Control. The proposed transaction will effectuate a transfer of control with no disruption to the day-to-day operations or service offerings.
- ☞ **Franklin Telephone Company Inc.** filed its [Notice of Deregulation](#) as well as its [Notice of Filing](#) of a New Tariff. The stand-alone, single line Business and Residential Services offered by **Franklin Telephone Company** will no longer be regulated by the tariffs approved by the **Commission** and it seeks to cancel and replace their current tariff on file at the **Commission**. This action will not result in a change in current service and rates, and will take effect automatically for all affected services, unless services are disconnected. This will apply to its certificated areas of Adams, Amite, **Bolivar**, Choctaw, **Claiborne**, **Copiah**, Franklin, George, Greene, **Hinds**, **Humphreys**, **Issaquena**, Jackson, **Jefferson**, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lowndes, **Noxubee**, **Oktibbeha**, Perry, **Sharkey**, Simpson, Stone, **Sunflower**, **Warren**, Wilkinson and **Yazoo Counties**.
- ☞ **Rankin County** filed its [Reply](#) to the **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Response to Motion to Intervene in regards to **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** implementation of standard rate change.



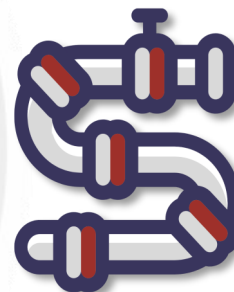
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- ✎ **East MS Connect, LLC** filed its [Application](#) of Expansion of its Eligible Telecommunication Carrier (ETC) Designation for the limited purpose of providing Lifeline service in new specified service areas. If designated as a Lifeline-only ETC, **East Mississippi Connect** will provide Lifeline discounted service to qualifying low-income consumers who reside within the proposed expanded Lifeline-only service area and who may otherwise not be able to afford service.
- ✎ **MS Solar 6** filed a [Petition for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity](#) for the construction and operation of a 150 MWac solar electric power generation facility and a 50 MWac battery storage facility in Lowndes County, MS. [The project](#) will comprise of an area of 1,510 acres and cost approximately \$120 million. The entire electricity output generated by the facility will be sold to the Tennessee Valley Authority under a 20-year power purchase agreement.
- ✎ The **Commission** issued a [Suspension Order](#) for **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Notice of Intent to change rates by offering a "prepay" electric service billing option.

Our Pipeline Safety Division completed **6** construction inspections in the Central District during the month of November 2021.

The total costs for construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of November is approximately **\$5,869,000**.

***"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 **25** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	17
Telecommunications	4
Natural Gas	3
Water/Sewer	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **247** 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.***