

November 10, 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



TAKE STEPS TO STOP THEM.

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 toss 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, 42.8 billion robocalls were placed nationwide. That is about 130 calls per person on average. **Mississippians received 40 million robocalls in October, averaging 13.8 calls per person or 15 calls made per second! Well, it is time to fight back!!**

If you have not yet done so, register your number(s) 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 scam calls or text messages may file a complaint with the Public Service Commission [in writing](#), over the [telephone](#), using the [Mississippi NoCall 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 12,836 complaints to our No Call Specialists in the Central District.**

The Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) has been strengthening 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 despite minimal resources 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

at bay. Android phones have varying options for blocking spammers depending on the operating system. Features include [Smart Call](#), [Call Screen](#) and [Phone App](#). On iOS phones, you can enact the Silence Unknown Callers feature.

Aside from taking the steps outlined above, there are tools within your phone, offered by your phone service provider, or offered by third parties that can keep robocalls and spam callers



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Phone service providers, or carriers, have the ability to apply whatever tools they have on hand to detect and block robocalls. However, many carriers have balked at applying these protections universally due to the concern of blocking wanted calls. Many carriers do provide downloadable robocall blocking and spam call alert apps. For example, AT&T has the [AT&T Call Protect](#) app, Verizon has the [Call Filter](#) app, T-Mobile has the [Scam Shield](#) app.

If you are still getting calls or not totally satisfied with carrier apps, you can download third-party apps to help get the job done. Most have a fee or subscription rate associated with their use, but the small fee may well be worth it to reduce the number of unwanted calls. Some examples of third-party apps include [Hiya](#), [Nomorobo](#), [Truecaller](#) and [RoboKiller](#). All these apps work in a similar way, but there are differences. Several tech sites have evaluated these apps and provide their views on effectiveness.

While the Federal Communications Commission continues to develop and evaluate new rules and regulations to put a stop to unwanted robocalls and texts, consumers need to take precautions now to avoid being scammed. Check out the [FCC's Consumer Tips](#).



Other News

NARUC Task Force Releases Emergency, Disaster and Pandemic Response Resources at Annual Meeting

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Emergency Preparedness, Recovery, and Resiliency (EPRR) Task Force [announced](#) the release of two new publications that examine key regulatory considerations for emergency preparedness, disaster response and recommend specific actions for state public utility commissions to enhance energy system resilience to major disruptive events.

The two publications, [Federal Funding Opportunities for Pre- and Post-Disaster Resilience Guidebook](#) and the final report of the EPRR Task Force's special Subcommittee on COVID-19 [Lessons Learned from the Ongoing Response to the COVID-19 Crisis](#), were released at NARUC's 133rd Annual Meeting and Education Conference in Louisville, KY. Briefings of the reports' findings were provided.

Infrastructure Package to Send Billions of \$\$\$ to Mississippi

The \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, also known as the ***Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R.3684)***, passed Congress late last week. The House vote was 228-206 while the Senate passed the measure 69-30 back in August. The President is scheduled to sign the bill soon.

A major portion of the bill's spending covers more traditional infrastructure to address the country's aging roads and bridges (\$110 billion), water infrastructure (\$55 billion) and rail (\$66 billion). This bill also includes funds for nontraditional infrastructure, such as broadband (\$65 billion) and community resiliency measures (\$47 billion) to address flooding, wildfires and coastal erosion. Of course, there are numerous other provisions in the bill and it will likely be a couple of weeks before the public has an understanding of all the elements of this legislation.



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It is estimated that Mississippi will directly receive approximately \$4.46 billion over the next five years. That figure could change based on the final spending formulas and other funds that the state could compete for and receive. Below is a breakdown of what Mississippi should receive based on federal estimates:



Roads and bridges: \$3.3 billion
Water lines and pipes: \$429 million
Public transportation: \$223 million
High-speed internet: \$100 million
Airports: \$99 million
Electric vehicle chargers: \$51 million
Community resiliency: \$19 million
Cybersecurity: \$16 million

Mississippians will also receive funds for home weatherization and commercial and residential energy audits, which stands to reduce energy costs for families and businesses.

Entergy Mississippi LLC Announces Largest-Ever Expansion of Renewable Power

Entergy Mississippi has [announced](#) a plan to replace some aging natural gas plants with 1,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy over the next five years. The plan is called EDGE for “Economic Development with Green Energy” and the strategy is two-fold: give Mississippi an edge in recruiting industry to the states while simultaneously giving Entergy customers an effective hedge against potentially volatile natural gas prices.

Under the EDGE plan, Entergy Mississippi would add 500 MW of renewable power to its portfolio by 2025 and another 500 MW by 2027. This would increase renewable power as a percentage of the company’s total power generation portfolio from less than 1% to 17% in three years and almost one-third in only five years. Entergy Mississippi will begin issuing requests for proposals (RFPs) for multiple renewable projects in early 2022. The company would then take the proposed projects to the Mississippi Public Service Commission for review and consideration.

Regarding the EDGE plan, I stated the following: “The national transition to a cleaner, more diversified energy generation portfolio is undeniable. Many factors are driving this change, including the desire by private and public sector customers to access renewable energy resources. My office will work with Entergy Mississippi to ensure these new energy resources are responsibly considered in a timely manner and in a way that enhances reliability and affordability.”

Southern Co. Announces Plans to Shutter More Coal Plants

Southern Company, the nation’s third largest utility, has [announced](#) plans to close most of its coal-burning units at Plant Scherer, Plant Bowen, and Plant Wansley in Georgia as well as coal units at two Southern plants in Alabama, Plant Gaston and Plant Barry. Greene County, Alabama natural gas steam generator plant will close in 2025 and 2026. State environmental and utility regulators in Alabama and Georgia must sign off on the company’s plans.



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A timeline for Plant Daniel in Mississippi had been previously announced. Southern Co. plans to continue operating Plant Miller in Alabama.

Southern Company once operated 66 generating units of coal, producing 20,450 megawatts across its Southeastern territory. It now operates 18 units producing 9,799 MW. Once these additional units are closed, that figure will fall to roughly 4,300 MW at eight units.

Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed [Confidential Exhibits](#) to its Notice of Compliance Filing in regard to its Notice of Intent to Change Rates Pursuant to its Performance Evaluation Plan, Rate Schedule PEP-6.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Transmission and Distribution Plan](#) in compliance with the Formula Rate Plan Rider Schedule FRP-7 (Revised) ("Schedule FRP-7"). The annual submission of this plan will allow the Commission to have more visibility into **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** capital spending plans.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Mid-Point Construction Report](#) as well as [Confidential Exhibits](#) as required per the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing the Construction, Acquisition and Operation of a Solar Generation and Battery Storage Demonstration Project near Walnut Grove in **Leake County**.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its 2022 [Energy Delivery Plan](#) which is intended to offer a picture of the manner in which **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** expects to meet the energy needs of its customers, as well as inform interested stakeholders of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** planned capital transmission and distribution infrastructure projects, demand-side management investments, and advanced technology offerings that can be used to modernize the grid.
- ✎ **GC Pivotal, LLC** filed its [Notice](#) of Filing Chapter 11 Bankruptcy.
- ✎ **Prime Developers, Inc.** filed its [Revised Tariff](#) adding more specificity in regards to its sewer service.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued a [Recommended Order Approving Initial Rates](#) for Prime Developers Inc. in regards to its Notice of its Intent to Establish Rates for Sewer Service in its Certificated Area in **Lauderdale County (Southern Hills North Subdivision)**.
- ✎ **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** filed its [Supplemental Schedule 13-F](#) for its Petition for Approval of the Sale and Transfer of Certain Assets, Facilities, Property, and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Provision of Wastewater Disposal Service in **Desoto, Lamar, Lee, Lowndes, Oktibbeha, and Tishomingo Counties**.
- ✎ **Lumen Technologies, Inc.**, on behalf of **CenturyTel of Adamsville, Inc.** and **CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc.**, and **CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC**, and **Connect Holding LLC** filed their [Supplement](#) to their Joint Application to note a technical revision.
- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its [Response](#) to System Integrity Rider Consultant Recommendations regarding its Compliance Tariff Filing in the Matter of a Comprehensive Review of **Atmos Energy Corporation's** Proposed Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2022. **The Commission** issued an [Order Approving Compliance Tariffs Pages](#) in regards to **Atmos Energy Corporation's** Stable/Rate Adjustment Rider.

FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



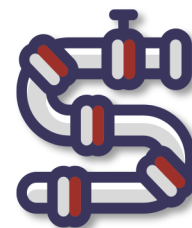
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- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed their annual submittals which included their [Unit Power Cost Recovery Rider Schedule UPC-4 \(REVISED\)](#), [Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Rider Schedule EE-2](#), [Grid Modernization Rider Schedule GMR-1](#), [MISO Cost and Revenue Schedule MISO-2](#), [Power Management Rider Schedule PMR-12](#), and [Restructuring Credit Rider Schedule RC-1](#) Adjustment Factors, and subject to **Commission** approval will become effective the first billing cycle of February 2022. The total impact of these combined annual submittals will result in the monthly bill increase of \$7.65 for a typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month. The main driver for the requested rate increase is due to the increase cost of natural gas fuel for power generation.
- ✎ **Franklin Telephone Company, Inc.** filed its [Interconnection Agreement](#) with **Teleport Communications America, LLC**.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued an [Order Setting Hearing](#) in regards to the Petition by **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Continue to Make Reliability Improvements To and Modernize its Transmission Infrastructure in **Franklin County**.
- ✎ **The Public Utilities Staff** prepared and filed the Monthly Purchase Gas Adjustment Audit Reports for the following entities: [Atmos](#), [CenterPoint](#), and [Spire](#)
- ✎ **Rankin County** filed its [Motion to Intervene](#) in **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Intent to Implement Standard Rate Change.

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

The total costs for construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of October is approximately **\$16,443,000**.

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

Electric Companies	22
Telecommunications	2
Water/Sewer	1
Natural Gas	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **366** 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.