

December 1, 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



COP26

Key Outcomes

For two weeks in November 2021, nearly 200 nations met in Glasgow, Scotland, to negotiate an agreement that builds on the 2015 Paris Agreement. The 26th Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) ended with those nearly 200 countries adopting the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) that specified the urgent need to make “rapid, deep and sustained” cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to ensure that the average global temperature does not rise above 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-Industrial Revolution levels.

Other outcomes from COP26 included new pledges from 100 countries to cut methane gas emissions, reverse deforestation across the world, review fossil fuels financing, phase down the use of coal, accelerate electrification of transportation, completed rule for carbon trading and execution of a U.S.-China deal that pledges the two countries will work together on climate-related actions.

By the end of the COP26 meeting, 151 countries had submitted new climate plans to reduce emissions by 2030. COP26 organizers calculate that these plans will only hold warming to 2.5 degrees Celsius by 2100. Earlier this year, President Biden committed the U.S. to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 50 to 52% by 2030. However, the U.S. did not join 40 other countries in Glasgow in a pledge to phase out coal by the 2030s.

The COP27 will take place next year in Egypt. At that time, nations are expected to provide updated commitments for emission reduction targets and take more concrete actions to increase financial pledges to address loss and damage of climate-vulnerable countries.

Speaking of climate-vulnerability, do you know where Mississippi ranks on climate risks?

According to Climate Central, Mississippi comes in as “the second-worst state for climate change in large part due to its residents being the most vulnerable to extreme heat of any state. It’s also projected to have 68 days with a heat index north of 100 degrees by 2050 in a low emissions future. As a Gulf Coast state, Mississippi is also vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal flooding, coming in as the 9th most at-risk state for that category. Perhaps most alarming is the lack of mitigation efforts at the state level.”

States were ranked from best to worst in five categories: Drought, Extreme Heat, Wildfires, Flooding, Climate Threat Preparedness. [Climate Central](#) scored Mississippi an F for overall climate change preparedness, noting that while the state has done a decent job at addressing current risks, it’s done virtually nothing to address future vulnerabilities.



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Across the U.S., attitudes, emotions, and beliefs in the causes and effects of climate change vary widely. From the “sky is falling” calls for immediate, drastic climate mitigation actions to accusations of corruption and conspiracy amongst the climate scientific community, Americans spend a significant amount of time trying to discredit “the other side” rather than thoughtfully evaluating the scientific insights, analyzing economic influences, and exploring adaption measures and innovative solutions rooted in modern, reliable science.

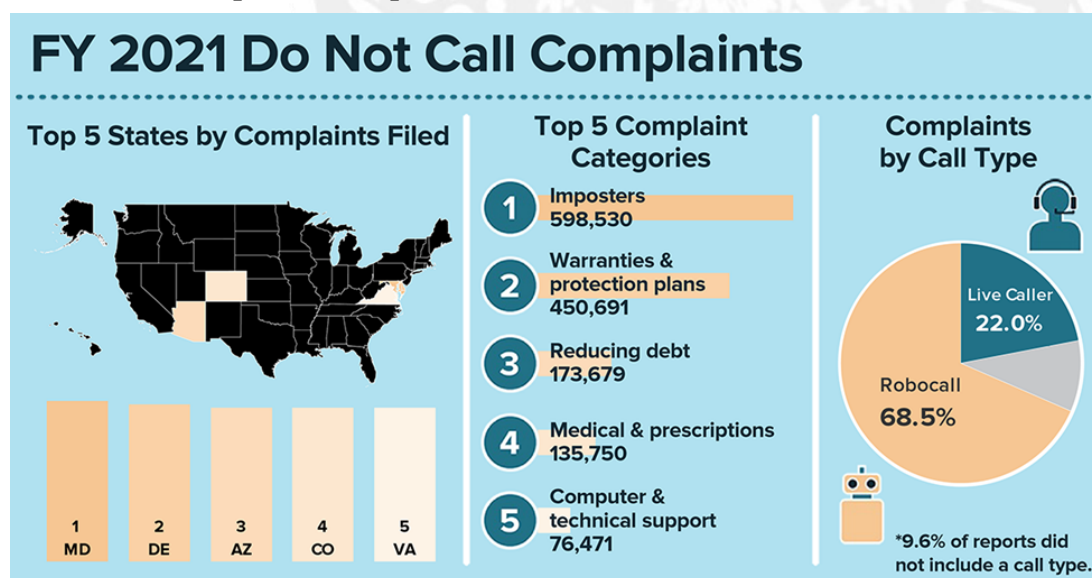
We can only estimate economic and ecological impacts and speculate on how and which technological achievement(s) will present solutions. It is hoped that we can avoid the tunnel-vision of a single position platform and recognize that a diverse society has diverse beliefs. We must be willing to investigate the benefits, costs and risks of climate response action and inaction.



Other News

Federal Trade Commission Reveals Most Common Types of Unwanted Calls

Since the National Do Not Call Registry was created 18 years ago, 244 million phone numbers have signed up. Despite being on the federal registry, we still get unwanted calls and texts on our phones. While law abiding companies typically follow the Do Not Call rules, scammers ignore them. Customers reported over 5 million complaints to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in the fiscal year ending October 2021. Most calls reported to the FTC were recorded message robocalls at 68 percent. Another 22 percent were live calls. The most common complaint topic reported were that of imposters, such as calls from scammers pretending to be the Social Security Administration or the Internal Revenue Service. The next most-report topic in 2021 were warranties and protection plans.



While it may seem to be a losing battle, please continue reporting unwanted calls to the [MPSC No Call Program](#), the [FTC Do Not Call Registry](#), and/or the [FCC Consumer Complaint Center](#). The MPSC works with state and federal law enforcement agencies to [analyze reports](#) to identify and take action against the people responsible for

illegal calls and scams. The FTC also takes the phone numbers you report and releases them each business day to help telecommunications carriers and other industry partners that are working on call-blocking and call-labeling solutions.



Report Tracks Growth of Renewable Energy

A new report from Environment America Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group ranks Mississippi for renewable energy growth. In measures of growth since 2011, Mississippi ranks 27th nationally in solar power, 26th in energy efficiency, 46th in electric vehicle sales, 36th in battery storage of renewable energy and tied with 10 other states for 41st in wind power. The report, [*Renewables on the Rise 2021*](#), tracks the growth and improvement of clean energy technologies over the last decade and makes the case for a clean energy future. Key facts include: In 2020, America generated almost four times as much renewable electricity from the sun and the wind as in 2011, with wind and solar now producing 11% of the nation's electricity, enough to power 33 million homes; Electric efficiency programs across the U.S. saved over 17% more energy in 2019 than in 2011; Electric vehicle numbers grew from 16,000 in 2011 to more than 2 million in 2021; The nation's battery storage capacity grew more than 18-fold from 2011 to 2020; The costs of solar photovoltaic systems, wind facilities and LED light bulbs have fallen dramatically since 2011.

Electric Utilities Illustrate Their Role in Clean Energy Growth

The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies who provide electricity for 220 million Americans. The EEI compiled a [new infographic](#) that outlines and quantifies the role of electric utilities in advancing clean energy technologies and smarter energy infrastructure.



Alabama Launches Campaign to Promote Electric Vehicles

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey and officials from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) [launched a new initiative to educate](#) people in the state about the benefits of electric vehicles (EVs). The initiative is called Drive Electric Alabama and is designed to raise awareness, and advocate for the eventual adoption, of electric vehicles. The marketing campaign behind the initiative is called "Electric Gets You There" and stresses the cost savings associated with electric vehicles as well as EVs' functionality. The state is also developing a new statewide infrastructure plan related to electric vehicles, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

**DRIVE
ELECTRIC
ALABAMA**

Kentucky College Completes Hydropower Project

Berea College is the first college in the nation to complete a hydropower project. The \$11 million, 2.64-megawatt Matilda Hamilton Fee Hydroelectric Station is located on the Kentucky River and has an expected 50-year lifespan. The power is being sold to Jackson Energy Cooperative with the revenue going into a Berea College fund that dedicated to supporting and educating students that are struggling financially.



The MPSC's December Regular Docket Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, December 7. The meeting is open to the public and will be streamed online.



Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ The **Commission** issued an [Order Closing Investigation](#) into the cause of and measures taken to repair sinkholes in the **Hidden Hills Subdivision** threatening damage to the facilities of certain jurisdictional public utilities and creating potential for service disruption and future rate increases to customers being served by those regulated utilities.
- ✎ **Midcontinent Independent System operator, Inc. (MISO)** submitted its [Comments and Responses](#) to requests made by the **Commission** in its [Order](#) regarding Long-Range Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation, Regional Resource Assessment, and Resource Availability and Need.
- ✎ **CTC Communications Corp.** filed its [Request to Withdraw/Cancel](#) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate as an interexchange telecommunications services provider in the State of **Mississippi**. CTC does not have any customers in the State, and CTC has no active tariffs on file with the **Commission**.



Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to take a tour in and around Entergy's Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Claiborne County. Parts of the tour included the fuel rod staging area and cooling pool, station support systems, dry cask spent fuel storage and the control room. Grand Gulf is the first and only nuclear power plant to produce electricity in Mississippi and is the largest single-unit nuclear power plant in the country (nearly 1,500 MWe) and fifth largest in the world. This plant also has a 520-foot natural draft cooling tower. We appreciate GGNS Site Vice President Bob Franssen and his team's hospitality and look forward to a future visit.



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

Electric Companies	13
Telecommunications	2
Natural Gas	2
Water/Sewer	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **281** 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.