

January 19, 2022



**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

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I am thrilled to announce that today we are publishing our **100th newsletter**. Shortly after beginning my term as your Commissioner for the Central District, this office made a commitment to do everything we could to keep constituents informed of actions at the Commission, project announcements, changes in utility rates and programs, and of the work we are doing for the citizens of the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. This weekly newsletter has proven to be a valuable tool to share information.

Through these newsletters, we strive to provide an in-depth look at various utility matters and much more. Most weeks, I attempt to pick a topic to focus on that is relevant with current issues or events happening that week. On other matters, I tend to provide my own commentary, observations, or even my idea of potential solutions.

Regardless of the topic, our primary goals are ensuring transparency in government for citizens and ensuring that factual information is being delivered through our messages. I believe it would be difficult to maintain your trust and support if we ducked those responsibilities. Keeping the public informed on issues that could have positive or negative impacts on their home or business is one of the best things we can do to ensure that the public interest is being served.

Over the last two years, I have covered a variety of topics, such as fossil energy, nuclear energy, renewable energy, broadband/telecommunications, spam calls/telemarketers, critical infrastructure, the power grid, energy efficiency, utility programs and policies, state and national policy, community/statewide events, energy-related awareness days and so much more! If you wish to review a past edition, all our newsletters can be found at: <https://www.psc.ms.gov/central/newsroom/newsletters>. We will continue to cover those topics and more throughout the coming year.

In addition to our main topics each week, we typically include other related news items, the most recent filings at the Commission, highlights from our docket meetings, and a legislation tracker during the legislative sessions. Furthermore, we conclude each newsletter with the weekly number of consumer complaints received in the Central District regarding energy, telecommunications, water/sewer, and natural gas, followed by an update from our No Call Division, and a monthly update from our Pipeline Safety Division, when applicable.



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I urge you continue to follow us, stay informed and get engaged in utility matters to understand how the decisions made at the Commission may impact family budgets and influence the development of our state/local economy. It is my hope that these newsletters continue to be a resourceful tool to those who receive it, whether at home or in industry. Please share with your friends, family members, neighbors, and colleagues. Furthermore, drop us an email of a specific topic you would like for us to consider covering.

It takes a lot of effort to continuously put forth a comprehensive newsletter. I am proud of my staff and the team at the Mississippi Public Service Commission that contributes to this product. And I thank you for your continued support and interest in our work.

Highlights from the January 18th Monthly Docket

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on January 18, 2022, at 10:00 am CT to consider the following [agenda](#) items:

- The **Commission** considered and, upon thorough review and discussion, issued Orders approving **Entergy Mississippi LLC's (EML)** annual filings for the following rate factors:
 - ☑ The Notice of Intent to Implement a Standard Change in Rates under the company's **ECR-4** (Energy Cost Recovery Rider Schedule), would increase a 1,000 kWh residential bill by \$11.30 per month. The ECR-4 is EML's fuel adjustment clause through which it is allowed to recover the actual cost of the fuel purchased and burned to generate electricity. The increase is due to an under-recovery of fuel costs because of higher than projected natural gas prices in 2021 and accounting for higher projected natural gas costs in 2022. The Commission will reevaluate the status of the ECR-4 under/over recovery and projected fuel cost every 90 days beginning February 1 until the next filing of the ECR-4.
 - ☑ The Notice of Intent to Modernize Rates to Support Economic Development, Power Procurement, and Continued Investment under the Company's **PMR-12** (Power Management Rider Schedule) reduces a 1,000 kWh residential bill by \$2.05 per month. The PMR-12 is designed to recover EML's natural gas hedging costs and other associated costs. The reduction in PMR-12 costs is primarily due to hedging gains.
 - ☑ Changes to the company's **UPC-4** (Unit Power Cost Recovery Rider Schedule) decreases a 1000 kWh residential bill by \$.38 cents per month. The UPC-4 recovers the costs related to the capacity costs of wholesale base load generation purchased from Entergy Arkansas. The reduction in rates is due to a larger over-recovery in 2021 as a result in lower that projected Grand Gulf costs.
 - ☑ Through the Economic and Reliability Benefits of Participation in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the MISO Cost and Revenue Rider (**MISO-2**) decreases a 1,000 kWh residential bill by \$1.17 per month. The MISO-2 recovers/credits the costs/revenues associated with MISO membership. The change in the MISO-2 is primarily driven by an increase in transmission revenues credited back to the customer.
 - ☑ The Notice of Intent for Recovery of Electric Grid Modernization and Rural Fiber Costs under the Company's Grid Modernization Rider (**GMR-1**) increases a 1,000 kWh residential bill by \$0.25 per month. The GMR-1 was originally created so that EML could recover costs associated with fiber optic infrastructure in support of broadband expansion. EML is also utilizing the GMR-1 to recover costs associated with the Resiliency Ramp-Up program - an acceleration of the replacement of wood transmission structures with that of steel transmission structures. EML must provide certain additional information before the Resiliency Ramp-Up program can go live.
 - ☑ The Notice of Intent for Return of Restructuring Customer Bill Credits under EML's Restructuring Credit Rider Schedule (**RC-1**) results in a monthly increase of \$0.04 for an average residential customer using 1,000 kWhs. The increase is due to a true-up resulting from excessive credits provided in 2021. Savings gained through EML's corporate restructuring resulted in customer bill credits of \$27 million over six years. The credit to customers ends in 2024.

*The combined impact of each rate adjustment - with increases and decreases - will bring the total impact on a residential bill of an **Entergy Mississippi LLC** customer an increase of \$7.81 per month starting in February 2022.*



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- ☑ The **Commission** granted an [Order](#) Approving **Entergy Mississippi LLC's** Notice of Intent of Entergy Mississippi LLC to Offer a Prepay Electric Service Option. This is a voluntary program that will not produce cost for non-participating customers. There are no enrollment fees; however, customers will be required to establish an initial prepaid balance of at least \$30 to enroll. The \$30 represents the average weekly cost of electricity for an EML residential electric customer. This initial balance is meant to ensure there are sufficient funds for one week's work of typical usage when first enrolling in prepay. Customers must understand that certain programs are not compatible with Prepay. The Commission encourages EML to conduct a comprehensive education and outreach effort to inform customers of the specifics of Prepay.
- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) on the filing by **Mississippi Power Company** of its Fuel Cost Recovery and Energy Cost Management Factors for regulatory year 2022 pursuant to its Fuel Cost Recovery Clause, Schedule (FCR-2) and its Energy Cost Management Clause, Schedule (ECM-2A). The Fuel Cost Recovery and Energy Cost Management Factors will result in a monthly increase of \$5.27 to an average residential customer's bill. The increase is due to an under-recovery of fuel costs because of higher than projected natural gas prices in 2021.
- ☑ The **Commission** granted an [Order](#) Approving Notice of **Spire Mississippi Inc.'s** of filing of Routine Changes in its Annual Rate Stabilization Adjustment Rider (RSA). **The Public Utilities Staff** and **Spire** agreed to a Joint Stipulation to an Allowed Return of 9.83%, an adjusted Rate Base of \$44,020,368, and an Earned Return of 6.00%. Because the adjusted Earned Return of 6.00% falls below the band of 8.83% to 10.83%, there is a need for a revenue requirement increase of \$842,428 (including disallowances of \$268,057). This requirement will be collected over the remaining rate period of January 2022 to November 2022, resulting in an increase of \$1.72 in an average monthly bill of 37 therms for a residential customer.
- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) in response to the Petition of **Level 3 Telecom of Mississippi, LLC**, requesting it be allowed to discontinue certain local exchange services in **Horn Lake, Olive Branch, and Southaven**.
- ☑ The **Commission** approved an [Order](#) on the Petition of **Franklin Telephone Company, Inc.** for authority to discontinue 14 alarm circuits used by 7 customers. **Franklin Telephone Company, Inc** has discontinued the use of copper lines and these services will not work over fiber optic lines.
- ☑ The **Commission** approved an [Order](#) for the Joint Petition filed by **Greenview Sewer, LLC** and the **City of Olive Branch** requesting that the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity held by **Greenview Sewer** be transferred to **Olive Branch** so that sewer services may be expanded.
- ☑ The **Commission** also approved an [Order](#) Granting Supplemental Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on the filing of the Petition of the **City of Olive Branch** requesting the Supplemental Certificate to construct, operate, and maintain a sewer system in a specified area in **DeSoto County**.
- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) Inviting Final Written Comment and Setting Hearing on the Proposed Rule Changes regarding proposed final modifications to the Mississippi Renewable Energy Net Metering Rule and the Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule (collectively MRENMR). The comments to the rule are due February 1, 2022, and the public hearing on the final proposed rule modifications shall take place on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, following the regular open meeting of the Commission. In addition to certain revisions to the MRENMR, the Order establishes a rebate program that provides eligible residential customers an upfront cash rebate up to \$4,000 for the purchase of a renewable distributed energy facility, such as rooftop solar. The Order maintains current generation benefits adder values, but also creates a Solar for Schools program with three participation options.
- ☑ The **Commission** also established a new Rulemaking Docket related to the proposed Mississippi Shared Renewable Rule. The new docket invites parties to file a proposed rule or plan related to low income and public entity community solar programs. From the date of the **Order** creating the docket, parties will have 20 days to intervene and 60 days to file a proposed rule or plan. Any proposed rule or plan should follow certain guiding principles. (Order not finalized as of printing of newsletter)
- ☑ The **Commission** considered and granted permission to the **Mississippi Public Utilities Staff** to contract with United Professional Company for purposes of optimizing the regulatory auditing functions associated with routine rate filings.



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- ☑ The **Commission** approved an [Order](#) Granting **Rankin County's** Motion to Intervene in **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Changes in Rates Through Revised MSE Rider Adjustments (2003-UN-477), and the **Commission** issued an [Order](#) Denying **Rankin County's** Motion to Intervene in **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Application to Change Utility Operations to a Limited Liability Company and for Other Internal Restructuring and Related Relief (2018-UA-039) and was directed to the proper rate-focused dockets for intervention. Rankin County was also granted intervention in EML's Energy Cost Recovery Rider docket in a previous action.
- ☑ The **Commission** granted an [Order](#) substituting **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** for **Wilco Properties, Inc.** in the reference proceeding due to the 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 including **Wilco's** 21 systems in **Desoto, Lamar, Lee, Lowndes, Oktibbeha, and Tishomingo Counties.**
- The **Commission** approved Orders referring the following matters:
 - ☑ [Order Referring](#) Application of **Looxahoma Water Association, Inc.** to Cancel a Part of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in a Specified Area in **Tate County** to a Hearing Examiner.
 - ☑ [Order Referring](#) Application of **Senatobia Lakes Estates, Inc.** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it to Construct Operate and Maintain a Water System in a Specified Area in **Tate County** to a Hearing Examiner.
 - ☑ [Order Referring](#) Notice of **The Oaks Utilities, LLC** of its Intent to Establish Rates for Its Water Service in its Certificated Area in **Harrison County** to a Hearing Examiner.
 - ☑ [Order Referring](#) Application of **Briarwood Waste Control, Inc.** and **Waste Water Solutions, LLC**, to transfer all of the Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing it to construct, operate, and maintain a sewer system in a specified area in **Lauderdale County** to a Hearing Examiner.
 - ☑ [Order Referring](#) Petition of **MS Solar 6, LLC**, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing the Construction and Operation of a Solar Electric Generating and Storage Facility in **Lowndes County** to the Northern District Commissioner for hearing, report and recommendation.
- The **Commission** changed the date of the February 2022 open meeting to February 8, 2022, at 10:00 am.

Legislation Tracker











The deadline to make requests for general bills and constitutional amendments to be drafted was Wednesday, January 12. **The Commission** will be watching numerous bills that could impact customers, certain utilities or the MPSC. Last week, I highlighted several pieces of legislation. This week we spotlight the following:

- [HB 52](#): Local governments capital improvements revolving loan program; include municipal natural gas facilities.
- [HB 163](#): Administrative Procedures Act; amend to require proposed agency rules to be approved by the state auditor.
- [HB 325](#): Electric Power Association Law; bring forward entirely and amend election provisions of.
- [HB 439](#): State agencies; eliminate requirement to prepare and publish annual reports.
- [HB 517](#): Municipalities; extend repealer on authority to create program addressing delinquent customer water bills.
- [HB 547](#): Appropriations; phase in 25% reduction for agencies and departments over ten years.
- [SB 2058](#): PERS; allow water authorities and MS Rural Water Association to join.
- [SB 2059](#): Counties and municipalities; prohibit surcharge on certain payments by credit or debit cards.
- [SB 2604](#): Mississippi Broadband Expansion Act; enact

Please note that identification of a bill in this newsletter does not indicate support or opposition to a measure. Each bill is simply identified as an example of legislation that has been assigned to Energy, Public Utilities or other committees with oversight of these matters. Bills being tracked could change from week to week.



Last Week at the MPSC

-  **CoastConnect, LLC** filed an [Informational Tariff](#)- 2 Revised Pages. The purpose of the revision is to reduce the cost of residential voice service from \$54.75 to \$49.95 per month.
-  **Briarwood Waste Control, Inc.** and **Waste Water Solutions, LLC** filed an [Amended Petition](#) that the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct, operate and maintain a sewer system in specified areas in **Lauderdale County** held by **Briarwood Waste Control, Inc.** be transferred to **Waste Water Solutions, LLC**.
-  **Town of Flora** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Increase Rates for its Water Service in its Certificated area in **Madison County**. The proposed rates will increase the average residential water bill by about \$9 per month and increase the average commercial water bill by about \$13 per month. In addition, Town is also proposing to increase the rates for those water customers located one mile beyond the town limits. Specifically, the increase in the average water bill for residential customers inside town will be \$8.39/month, for residential customers outside town will be \$8.79/month, and for residential customers beyond one mile of town will be \$9.19/month. In addition, the increase in the water bill for unmetered customers beyond one mile would be \$15 per month, which would make those customers water bills similar to that of the average resident.
-  **Town of Flora** also filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Establish Rates for its Sewer Service in its Certificated area in **Madison County**. If approved, the proposed rates will increase the average residential sewer bill by about \$9 per month and increase the average commercial water bill by about \$9 per month. Since no sewer bills are currently being collected from any sewer customers more than one mile outside the corporate limits, the proposed rates will increase on the average residential sewer bill in that area by about \$29 per month. Specifically, the increase in the average sewer bill for residential customers inside town will be \$8.05/month, for residential customers outside town will be \$9.63/month, and for residential customers beyond one mile of town will be \$29.15/month. The proposed sewer rate schedule would establish an initial sewer rate for any unmetered water customers beyond one mile at \$35 per month, which would make those customers sewer bills similar to that of the average resident.
-  **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Response](#) to **Rankin County's** Motion to Suspend Filings and/or Rate Increase Pending Discovery and Data Request[s] by Intervening Party.
-  **City of Clinton** filed [Exceptions](#) to the **Commission's** Recommended Order of the Hearing Examiner and further requested to address the **Commission** in this matter should the Commission deem it appropriate and necessary.
-  **Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mississippi** filed its [Response](#) in Opposition to the Combined Motion and Memorandum of Authorities of **Airus, Inc.** for summary judgement of its Complaint.
-  **Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mississippi** filed its [Motion](#) for Summary Judgement against **Airus, Inc.**
-  **The Mississippi Public Utilities Staff** and **Spire Mississippi Inc.** filed [Stipulations](#) in regards to the Notice of **Spire Mississippi Inc.** of the Filing of Routine Changes in its Rate Stabilization Adjustment Rider.
-  A [Notice of Hearing](#) was issued for consideration of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for **Wildflower Solar LLC**. The hearing will be held Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 6:00 pm, at the DeSoto County Courthouse in Hernando, MS.



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

Electric Companies	14
Natural Gas	3
Telecommunications	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **238** 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.