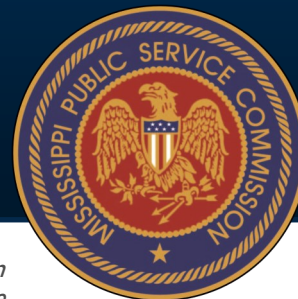


November 24, 2021



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

Durations of Power Outages Increased Last Year

In the United States, the average electricity customer experienced just over eight hours of electric power interruptions in 2020. This was nearly 3.5 hours longer than in 2019 and nearly 20 minutes longer than 2017, the last year to get close to 8 hours duration of interruptions.

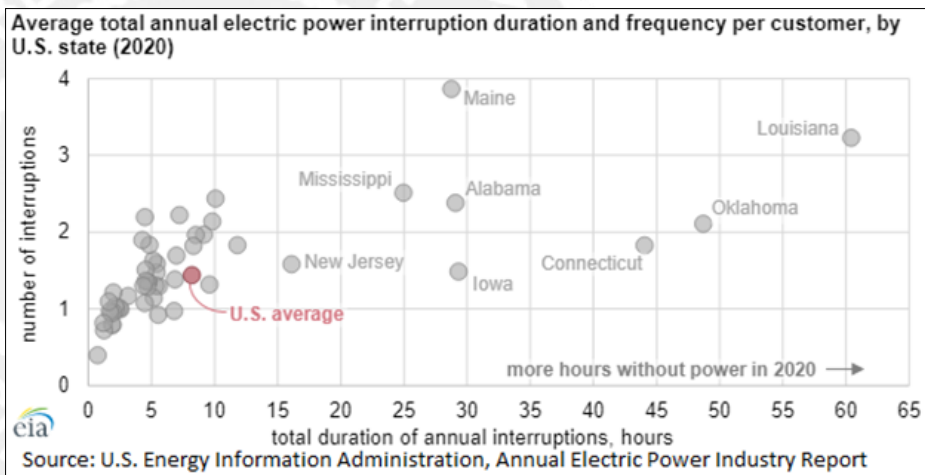
Customers in Alabama, Iowa, Connecticut, Oklahoma, and Louisiana experienced the most time with interrupted power in 2020, ranging from almost 29 hours in Alabama to 60 hours in Louisiana. **Mississippi** customers were close behind Alabama with 25 hours of interrupted power. On the other end of the spectrum, electricity customers in the District of Columbia, Arizona, Nevada, North Dakota, and South Dakota had the shortest total time of electricity interruptions in 2020, ranging from 44 minutes in the District of Columbia to 101 minutes in South Dakota.

Major weather events were largely responsible for the long duration interruptions in electric service. Hurricanes and tropical storms impacted Louisiana, Alabama, and Connecticut. Straight line winds (a derecho) impacted Iowa and an ice storm smacked Oklahoma.

The frequency of power interruptions also contributes to the total duration of outage time. Maine, a heavily forested state, saw the highest average number of power interruptions per customer, followed by Louisiana and **Mississippi**.

Different factors cause power interruptions, including weather, vegetation, and utility practices. 2021 so far has seen another round of extreme winter weather, major hurricanes, extensive wildfires, and supply chain disruptions. It will be interesting to see how 2021 stacks up against 2020.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission will continue to monitor how utilities spend their revenues to increase the efficiency, reliability, resilience, and security of the U.S. power grid. Prudent investments in electric wires, poles, towers, smart technologies, and more are needed to replace aging equipment, improve system performance, and accommodate new generation resources.





National News

Breaking Down the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Earlier this month, Congress passed and the President signed the HR 3684, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The \$1.2 trillion bill seeks to rebuild roads and bridges, expand access to clean drinking water and high-speed internet, improve airports, seaports and railroads, increase access to public transportation and electric vehicle (EV) charging, and upgrade and modernize electric transmission and distribution networks.

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Policy Team has developed an initial [summary and section-by-section review](#) of the energy provisions in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. The topline items for the energy sector include: \$65 billion to upgrade and build new transmission lines and advance new technologies such as advanced nuclear, carbon capture and clean hydrogen; \$7.5 billion to build out a national EV charging network; and \$550 for cybersecurity, energy security, and emergency response.

Questions Remain for U.S. Bulk Power System Winter Reliability

The North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) issued its [2021-2022 Winter Reliability Assessment](#) on November 18. The report warns that much of the central U.S. could face power deficiencies during extreme winter weather conditions if generators fail to take proactive steps to prepare facilities and improve communications among grid operators. NERC also called on grid operators to prepare and implement cold weather operating plans, conduct drills, and poll generators for fuel and availability status. However, generator owners' and grid operator's responses to NERC's questions about winterization plans and fuel coordination indicate that some plant vulnerabilities can be anticipated for the upcoming winter. Natural gas supply disruptions and low hydropower conditions could also imperil power reliability in other parts of the nation.



Low Income Household Water Assistance Program Aids Households

The [Low Income Household Water Assistance Program](#) (LIHWAP) provides funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills. LIHWAP grants are available to states who then disperse the funds on behalf of eligible customers. The program works exactly like LIHEAP (the energy assistance program). The customer who needs assistance calls their local Community Action Agency (CAA), makes an appointment, goes in for an interview, and finds out if they are approved. The CAA will either pay the bill at that time or call the water utility and pledge the amount they are going to pay. The Mississippi Department of Human Services is currently notifying LIHEAP participants about the program. While water utilities not required to contact their customers to inform them about the program, water utilities are encouraged to notify their customers about the program. Notification can be included with the bill or as a separate customer mailing. It is to a water utility's advantage if customers know that this money is available, and they can apply for it just like LIHEAP.



Regional News

Supreme Court Rules Against Mississippi in Groundwater Dispute with Tennessee

The Supreme Court has unanimously sided with Tennessee in a groundwater dispute with Mississippi, ruling that the court should divide up the water that's in an aquifer between the states through "equitable apportionment" to determine how much each can use. Mississippi had argued that the city of Memphis, Tennessee was pumping too much water from the underground Middle Claiborne Aquifer that extended into Mississippi. Mississippi was seeking \$615 million in damages from Tennessee and Memphis. The case extends back to 2014. The ruling was the first time the Supreme Court has ever weighed in on the issue of interstate groundwater.



Entergy Louisiana Requests Approval for 475 MW of Solar Production

More solar could soon be on its way in state more known for oil, gas, and petrochemical production. Entergy Louisiana has filed requests at the Louisiana Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction of new solar projects in St. James, Washington, and Allen Parishes. Entergy Louisiana managers claim the new solar projects will save customers money and provide net benefits in the millions of dollars. The projects will also help Entergy Corporation achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Entergy Louisiana hopes to have the solar projects in operation in 2024.

Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Franklin Telephone Company, Inc.** filed its [Tariff](#) to discontinue alarm circuits and removal from their current tariff. **Franklin Telephone Company, Inc.** will now be serving as a telephone utility in 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 [Motion to Intervene](#) in a number of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** annual submittals including the Power Management Rider Schedules, Restructuring Credit Rider Schedules, and Unit Power Cost Recovery Rider Schedules.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Sur-Reply](#) in Opposition to **Rankin County's** Motion to Intervene in **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Notice of a Routine Change in Rates by Implementing a Revised MSE Rider Adjustment Factor.
- ✎ **GC Pivotal, LLC** filed its [Application](#) together with **GTT Communications, Inc.** and **GTT Americas** to request approval for the transfer of control of **GC Pivotal** in order to effectuate the joint prepackaged plan of reorganization of **GTT Parent** and certain affiliates.



Continued...

- ☞ **Town of Edwards** filed its [Revised Notice](#) to Customers for an increase in rates for its certificated area located one mile or greater beyond the Town's corporate limits in **Hinds County**. The current rate is \$23.69 for 0-2000 gallon minimum and \$3.31 per thousand over 2000 gallons, and the proposed rate increase will be \$23.40 for 0-2000 gallon minimum and \$3.40 per thousand over 2000 gallons.
- ☞ **The Public Utilities Staff** prepared and filed the Purchased Gas Adjustment Audit Reports for the Month ended August 31, 2021 for the following entities: [Atmos](#), [CenterPoint](#), and [Spire](#)
- ☞ **The Commission** filed into the record a [Letter from Municipal Energy Agency of MS](#) (MEAM) in regards to the Commission Investigation Into the Adequate, Reliable, and Economical Electric Service in and around the city of **Itta Bena, MS**.

Talking Turkey – A Thanksgiving Message

Our county continues to face many challenges and differences abound – political, cultural, spiritual, and more. And the spin and grind of the 24-hour news cycle seems to perpetuate more negativity than what I consider healthy. I hope you can use the Thanksgiving holiday stretch to step away from those things that attempt to divide us. And use this time to reflect on the many things and people that bring joy to our lives. This is a time for family and friends. A time to express thanks for the many blessings provided to us as Americans and Mississippians.

I am so grateful to have this opportunity to serve as your Public Service Commissioner. While the job can be stressful, I remain motivated to do what I can to assist customers and ensure the most reliable, affordable, sustainable utility services are available to Mississippians. It is hard to believe that we are nearly halfway through this term, and there is still much to do.

Thank you for your continued support. All of us here at the Mississippi Public Service Commission wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving Day!!



Last week, our
Consumer Complaint
Specialists handled a
total of **33** complaints
in the Central District.

Electric Companies	29
Telecommunications	2
Water/Sewer	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **233** 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.