

December 15, 2021



**FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMISSIONER  
BRENT BAILEY  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE**

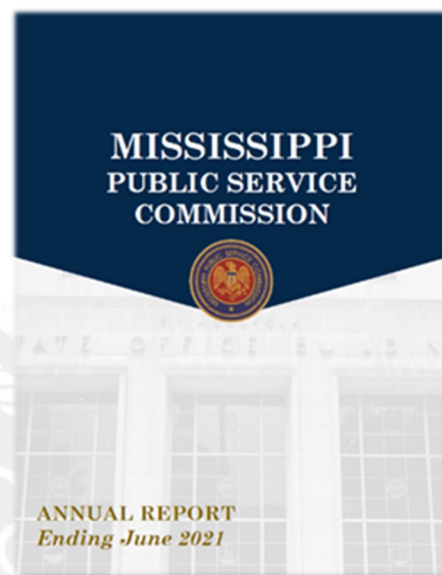


*The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues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

# MPSC ANNUAL REPORT SHOWS WORK OF COMMISSION

The end of a calendar year usually provides us a time to reflect on events, accomplishments and losses. It also provides us a time to look ahead to new opportunities, anticipated travel and personal growth with the arrival of a new year. While the Mississippi Public Service Commission's Annual Report is a condensed, informative record of the actions of the agency, it is a reflection based on the state's recently completed fiscal year - beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021. A deeper reflection of the full calendar year of 2021 will be saved for another day.



Although I will have been at the MPSC for two years come January 1, this Annual Report represents the first full fiscal year for which I have served. In addition to key stats that demonstrate the work of the Commissioners and the Commission staff, the report provides a history of the MPSC and an accounting of key legislation that has shaped the role of the agency. The report also describes the functions of key departments within the MPSC and provides information on the Commissioners themselves.



## **Key stats from the *FY 2021 Annual Report of the Mississippi Public Service Commission:***

☑ During fiscal year 2021, the Commission received 4,416 consumer complaints against utility companies. The complaints are broken down by utility sector: Electric - 1,384; Natural Gas - 186; Water - 676; Sewer - 38; Telecommunications - 1,708; and Miscellaneous - 424.



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- ☑ During fiscal year 2021, the Commission registered 7 new telemarketers bringing the number of telemarketers registered to conduct business in the State of Mississippi to 170.
- ☑ There are a total of 1,731,883 Mississippi consumers registered on the “No Call” list. The Commission received 77,426 complaints against telemarketers, robocallers and scammers for violating the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act. The Commission issued a total of 6 complaints against telemarketers and assessed \$13,740,000 in fines and penalties.
- ☑ During the 2021 Regular Legislative Session, the Public Service Commission was appropriated an additional \$287,121 for the development of a new “No Call” database and tracking system with the assistance of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services. The Information Systems Department opened RFP4378 for bids to replace the current “No Call” system in February 2021.
- ☑ The Pipeline Safety Division performed 1,058 inspections in FY 2021 resulting in findings of 153 violations.
- ☑ A total of 1,302 utilities hold a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) in Mississippi. A CPCN is a type of regulatory compliance certification for public service industries. Companies, cooperatives, municipalities or utility districts wishing to provide essential public utility services must be granted a CPCN before constructing facilities and offering services.
- ☑ There were 247 docketed cases before the Commission during FY 2021. Appearing most frequently before the Commission were telecommunication, electric and wastewater cases concerning applications for CPCN for facilities, notice filings involving rate matters and transfers of control. During FY 2021, the Commission and staff acted on 105 applications. No cases were appealed.

The MPSC Annual Report is being shared with the Mississippi Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, key Legislators and anyone that requests a copy. I hope you find the report informative and as a resource to garner a better understanding of the functions and actions of the MPSC. Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions.

*Our prayers are with all of those who were affected by the deadly and devastating tornadoes that ripped through Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee over the weekend. We will be thinking of the first responders, families, search and recovery teams, and all volunteers as they travel from near and far to provide help and assistance however they can.*





## Regional News

### **Mercedes Benz's Sustainability Goals Drive 80MW Solar Farm**

The Alabama Public Service Commission recently approved the 80-megawatt [Letohatchee Solar Project](#) and special contract between Alabama Power and Mercedes Benz U.S. International Inc. Under the 15-year contract, Mercedes Benz will receive all the renewable energy credits (RECs) from the solar facility and Alabama Power will distribute the entire electric output from the project. Letohatchee Solar Project will be located just south of Montgomery, AL and is expected to begin operation in March 2024.

### **How Does Mississippi Stack Up on Clean Energy?**

The Clean Energy Business Network and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy launched an interactive suite of infographics documenting the clean energy economies across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This data provides a snapshot of clean energy deployment, jobs, power sector carbon emissions, energy efficiency, and local impacts of federal investments in energy R&D. [Click here to view Mississippi's Clean Energy Infographic](#). Please note that the data reflects the situation through the end of 2020.



## Other News

### **Local Energy Resources Influenced by Global Demand**

Since Cheniere's Sabine Pass export terminal shipped the first cargo of domestically sourced liquified natural gas (LNG) from the U.S. to a foreign country in February 2016, LNG's export capacity in the U.S. has grown rapidly. In 2020, the United States became the world's third-largest LNG exporter. By the end of 2022, the United States will have the world's largest LNG export capacity.

As of November 2021, existing U.S. LNG nominal baseload liquefaction capacity was 9.5 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) and peak capacity was 11.6 Bcf/d across 6 LNG export facilities and 26 liquefaction trains. [Dry natural gas production in the U.S. is approximately 95 Bcf/d while LNG exports currently an average 11.2 Bcf/d or 11.7% of daily production.] By the end of 2022, U.S. nominal capacity will increase to 11.4 Bcf/d and peak capacity to 13.9 Bcf/d across 7 LNG export facilities and 44 liquefaction trains.






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The Calcasieu Pass (LA) facility will come online in 2022 and the Golden Pass LNG (TX) facility will begin operations in 2025. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy have approved another 10 U.S. LNG export projects, including the Gulf LNG project (1.5 Bcf/d) on the Mississippi Coast.

Why the growth in the LNG export market? For the week ending December 1, the U.S. Henry Hub natural gas spot market price had fallen to \$4.23/MMBtu. Meanwhile, international natural gas prices were near all-time highs: Prices for LNG cargos in East Asia for the balance of December are at \$36.47/MMBtu; The LNG spot market in Europe is currently at \$30.67/MMBtu. These prices drive exports as there is big money to be made by exporting LNG. [Note of caution: Prices in East Asia and in Europe were \$7.04/MMBtu and \$5.19/MMBtu, respectively, exactly one year ago.] However, demand for LNG is expected to get stronger in these regions in the coming years and as export capacity grows, it could put upward pressure on domestic natural gas prices. We shall see.....

## Last Week at the MPSC

-  **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Verification of Notice to Customers](#) to Amend its Property Damage Reserve and to Change Rates for its System Restoration Rider (SRR) Rate Schedule. This filing provides protection against damages sustained to its assets (specifically transmission and distribution lines) from severe weather events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, winter storms, and other natural disasters. For residential customers, the new rates will result in an increase of 96 cents per 1,000 kWh of energy used per month.
-  **Mississippi Power Company** also filed its [Notice of Filing](#) for the Fuel Cost Recovery and Energy Cost Management Factors for February 2022 through January 2023. Given the increases recently experienced in fuel commodity pricing, the calculated Factors mentioned in the filing, if implemented, would result in a \$6.68 increase to the monthly bill of a 1,000 kWh residential customer. However, in an effort to mitigate the bill impact to customers, **Mississippi Power Company** has submitted a mitigation proposal which would result in a \$3.86 increase to the monthly bill of a 1,000 kWh residential customer.
-  **Airus, Inc.** filed its [Combined Motion and Memorandum](#) for Summary Judgment on its Complaint against **Bellsouth Telecommunications d/b/a AT&T Mississippi**.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **27** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	16
Telecommunications	2
Natural Gas	9

Last week, the Central District received a total of **248** 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.*