

November 3, 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

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NARUC Publications Provide Useful Insights

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is primarily comprised of state utility regulators across the 50 states and U.S. territories, and functions to represent the interests and concerns of state commissions. In addition, the Association provides legal expertise, technical knowledge, and communications support to its regulatory members. Over the past few weeks, NARUC has issued several reports, including two new reports that explore the economic implications of the energy transition away from fossil fuels.

The first report, [*Regulators' Energy Transition Primer: Economic Impacts on Coal-Producing Communities, Environmental Justice Considerations, and Implications on Clean Energy Jobs*](#), offers a background for NARUC members to understand how the transition from coal to low-carbon energy resources is affecting communities and workers. The second report, [*The Role of State Utility Regulators in a Just and Reasonable Energy Transition: Examining Regulatory Approaches to the Economic Impacts of Coal Retirements*](#) examines the authority of PSCs across the country to consider non-energy economic impacts beyond direct ratepayer effects. The report also summarizes approaches that PSCs, utilities, and other stakeholders have used to mitigate the economic fallout of coal retirements.

NRRI, the research arm of NARUC, published a report that looks at the need for new market designs to support the transition to clean energy. [*Power Market Design for an Era of Rapid Decarbonization*](#) explores the role of decarbonization on power markets; specifically, the need for long-term market redesign.

NARUC's Center for Partnerships & Innovation released a new guidebook through the NARUC-U.S. Department of Energy Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Partnership. [*Coal and Carbon Management Guidebook: Coal-to-Hydrogen Challenges and Opportunities*](#) provides a comprehensive review of the opportunities for low-carbon hydrogen production from coal and biomass resources.

Finally, NRRI released [*Making the Right Resource Choice Requires Making the Right Model Choice*](#), a paper highlighting the benefits of using a new class of resource planning models to manage the complicated and complex process of planning for a decarbonized future.

NARUC and its programs provide useful resources that help regulators address questions surrounding electric transmission, natural gas supply, liquefied natural gas, energy efficiency, wind, solar, and coal-fired generation, and infrastructure and cybersecurity issues for the energy, water, and telecommunications sectors.



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I, along with other Commissioners and staff of the MPSC, will be traveling to Louisville, Kentucky early next week to participate in the [2021 NARUC Annual Meeting and Education Conference](#). In addition to participating on the various subcommittees to which I have been assigned, numerous educational sessions will be providing the latest information on a range of utility issues. This meeting also provides for the election of new officers to guide the NARUC organization. The conference will end with a session of the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission.



Other News

An EV Future: Navigating the Transition

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Advanced Grid Research and Development (AGR&D) Division, in partnership with the Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO), hosted a [series of 33 virtual meetings](#) from July 2020 through May 2021 covering 15 topics related to the transportation electrification ecosystem. The initiative reached more than 3500 individuals representing 700 unique entities from across the U.S. The participants' general perception was that the transition to electric vehicles will offer new opportunities but also place new demands on the electric grid and the utilities that operate and control it. See [An EV Future: Navigating the Transition](#) to learn more about the emerging themes from the participant conversations.

2021 Mississippi Damage Prevention Summit

For the remainder of this week, I will be at the largest gathering of industry professionals dedicated to excavation safety and underground utility damage prevention in the state. The purpose and focus is to bring stakeholders together to solve challenges to excavation safety and network with experts who have a common commitment to protect underground facilities, while keeping communities safe.



Highlights from the November 2 Monthly Docket Meeting

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on November 2, 2021, to consider the following [agenda](#) items:

- ☑ The **Commission** granted an [Order](#) approving **Spire Mississippi, Inc.**'s Petition seeking an extension of its Supplemental Growth Rider tariff ("SGR") for an additional three years until October 15, 2024, to encourage economic development and job creation in its certificated area. To date, **Spire** has not made any capital investments under the SGR.
- ☑ [The Commission](#) granted an [Order](#) approving the Joint Application of **BCM One, Inc., Wholesale Carrier Services, Inc.** and **BCM One Group Holdings, Inc.** requesting approval to consummate a transaction that will result in the intermediate transfer of control for the purpose of restructuring.
- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) granting Supplemental Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to the **Town of New Augusta** authorizing it to expand its water system into the Mahned Community of **Perry County**.



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- ☑ The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) implementing consultant recommendations for Future Long Term Planning Reports in regards to **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Cycle pursuant to Commission Rule 29. The **Commission** instructed **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** to implement certain recommendations, as well as stakeholder suggestions, for improving the IRP process going forward, as well as substantive information the **Commission** expects to see in future long-term planning/IRP reports.
- ☑ The **Commission** entered an [Order](#) referring the contested matter of **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** to establish initial and temporary rates for wastewater disposal service in **Camden Place Subdivision** in **Warren County**, to Commission Staff for hearing, report, and recommendation of an appropriate Order.
- ☑ The **Commission** entered an Order referring the matter of **Superior Utilities, Inc.**'s intent to increase rates for [Water](#) and [Sewer](#) Service in its certificated area in **Harrison County** to **Commission Staff** for hearing, report, and recommendation of an appropriate Order.
- ☑ The **Commission** entered Orders reopening and referring Dockets to Hearing Examiner for investigation and show cause hearing into the provision of sewer service by the following to determine if the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity should be canceled and/or revoked based upon information and belief the following no longer serve sewer customers within their certificated area: [Brignall Sewer Company, Inc.](#); [White Sands Community Services, LLC](#) ; [Anglin Utility Company, LLC](#) ; and [MD Utilities, LLC](#)
- ☑ The **Commission**, upon unanimous consent, moved to create a docket to investigate the performance of **LePapillon Utility Company** and referred the matter to Commissioner Maxwell for investigation and recommendation of action.
- ☑ The **Commission** voted unanimously to issue a proposed net metering rule by the end of the month and include a set of directives for establishing a community solar program. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide comments on the proposal. The **Commission** acted earlier this year to reopen the net metering rule for review and comment per the 5-year reopener clause contained in the original rule established in December 2015.
- ☑ The **Commission** also held a hearing on the Petition of **Mississippi Power Company** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing the Construction, Acquisition, Extension, Operation and Maintenance of Transmission and Related Facilities and Rights-of-Way in **George County**. **Mississippi Power Company** outlined that the completion of the project is to address aging infrastructure needs identified as part of their routine pole inspection program and address project transmission line overloads. The project consists of rebuilding and reconductoring 17.8 miles of the existing Lucedale – Vestry 115kV transmission line. The new poles will have a wind rating of 140 mph. The estimated project cost is \$18.2 million and will have an impact of increasing a residential customers bill by \$0.29 per 1000 kWh. The **Commission** entered an [Order](#) Approving Petition for Facilities Certificate.
- ☑ The **Commission** issued a Resolution memorializing the life of **Cayce Seal**. Mr. Seal, a lineman from Bay St. Louis, suffered an unrecoverable electrical shock while working for Entergy in New Orleans on June 23, 2021. He passed away from his injuries on June 26. The 28-year-old was a son, father, sibling, and community leader. His organs were donated so that others could receive the gift of life. Cayce's parents and fiancé were on hand to receive the Resolution and a flag flown in honor of Cayce. Cayce's father, Doug Seal, shared words of remembrance for his son with those in attendance.





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Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ The **Commission** filed an [Order](#) requesting additional comments and responses from MISO per the Docket established to investigate the membership of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** in the **Midcontinent Independent Transmission Operator (MISO)**.
- ✎ **South Central Water Assn. Inc.** filed an [Amended Legal Description of Supplemental Area](#) in regards to its Application for a Supplemental Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it to Operate and Maintain a Water System in a Specified Area in **Hinds County**.
- ✎ The **Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving **Atmos Energy Corporation's** Compliance Tariff in regards to a Comprehensive Review of their Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.
- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** made [Compliance Filings](#) of its Stable/Rate Adjustment Rider 327, Rider Schedule 323 Spot Gas Sale and/or Transportation Pricing Rider, and Policy for Extension of Gas Facilities along with the revised redlined and clean versions of each in compliance with the October 14, 2021 order of the **Commission**.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to make Reliability Improvements to and Modernize its Transmission Distribution Infrastructure in **DeSoto County**. The Proposed Electrical Facilities consists of a new 115/13.8kV Substation with associated transformers and breakers, over 13 miles of new and rebuilt transmission and distribution lines, and over three miles of fiber comms cable. The total cost of the Proposed Electrical Facilities is estimated to be \$37 million and would result in an approximately \$0.32 impact on the monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to make Routine Changes and Schedules related to its proposed [Prepay Electric Service Option](#). Prepay is a voluntary electric billing service option available to residential customers, enabled by AMI and supporting technology, software, and systems.



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

Electric Companies	17
Telecommunications	6
Water/Sewer	4

Last week, the Central District received a total of **275** 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.



Last week, I traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota, representing the Mississippi PSC on the Organization of MISO States (OMS) Board of Directors Annual Meeting. Before the start of the meeting, I and some of my colleagues in the MISO region got an up close tour of Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins. This 11-year-old facility has been recognized for design, fan experience, sustainability and visiting team approval. Target Field is nestled right in the middle of downtown Minneapolis.