

January 26, 2022



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



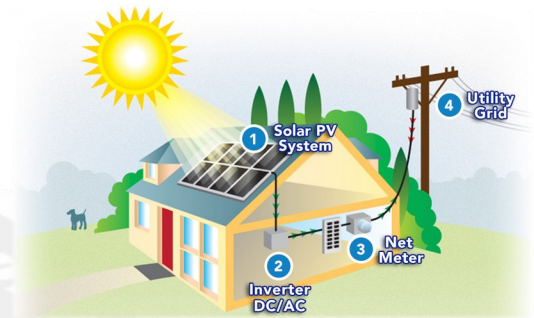
*The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues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

**T**he Mississippi Renewable Energy Net Metering Rule and the Mississippi Distributed Generation Interconnection Rule was adopted by the MPSC on December 3, 2015, and established the regulatory framework that facilitates a consumer's right to self-supply electricity and right to interconnect to the grid. The Net Metering Rule also established how any excess generation of electricity is valued and compensated when sent to the grid by the distributed generation owner. The rule also included a "reopener" clause that required the MPSC to open a new docket to assess the efficacy and functionality of the net metering and interconnection rules after five years.



On January 12, 2021, the Commission established a new docket and requested interveners, and on February 2, 2021, the Commission entered an Order inviting parties to file written comments, propose changes to the rules, and respond to a series of specific questions related to the current rules. A total of 24 parties were permitted to intervene. On April 24, 2021, the Commission issued an Order allowing Reply Comments. All Orders and comments can be viewed by searching the [case files](#) at 2021-AD-19

Following an extensive rulemaking process, the Commission moved on January 18, 2022, to release its [Proposed Final Net Metering and Interconnection Rules](#). The new rules improve total compensation rates for new solar customers, encourage implementation of energy efficiency measures, and prioritize solar adoption for low-to-moderate income (LMI) customers. The new rules also maintain pricing for excess generation for 25 years, create a meter aggregation option for agricultural and tax-exempt governmental entities, and reconstitute an Interagency Working Group to monitor, identify, discuss and report issues pertaining to the rule. The Order putting forth the proposal outlines the applicability and eligibility of the rebate offering, the transfer of renewable energy credits, and consideration of a revised customer charge. Furthermore, the Order instructed the regulated electric utilities to file proposed Solar for Schools programs per the guiding principles attached to the Order.

**Any interested party who wishes to file written comments on the Proposed Final Net Metering and Interconnection Rules may do so no later than February 1, 2022. In addition, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the final proposed rule modifications on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, in the Commission Hearing Room immediately following the Commission's February 2022 Open Meeting.**



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In addition to considering comments associated with the net metering and interconnection rules, the Commission also took comments on whether a community solar framework should be incorporated into the net metering rule. While providing customers access to renewable energy through community solar programs is a priority of the Commission, the Commission found that the best course of action would be to establish a separate rulemaking and open a new docket to consider new rules and standards applicable to community solar offerings.

On January 21, 2022, the Commission opened a new docket (2022-AD-07) for the purpose of accepting and evaluating proposed rules and/or plans related to community solar programs. Per the [Order Establishing Docket and Inviting Comment](#), parties are directed to file comments and proposals focused on low-income and public entity participation per the principles included in the Order.

Parties may file to intervene no later than February 10, 2022. Comments and proposals pertaining to community solar may be filed no later than March 22, 2022.

## Entergy Mississippi Releases RFP for Renewable Generation Resources

Entergy Mississippi, LLC (EML) has issued its [2022 Request for Proposals for Renewable Resources for Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#) (2022 EML Renewable RFP). The RFP documents, appendices, and bidder registration/information are available on the [2022 EML Renewable RFP website](#). Through this RFP, EML seeks to procure 500 MW<sub>AC</sub> of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from eligible renewable generation resources, including solar PV and wind. Battery energy storage will be considered as a separate option if associated with a proposed project.

A Bidder Conference is scheduled for February 8, 2022, from 9 – 11am CT. Participants should register for the Bidders Conference no later than February 7, 2022, via the RFP inbox at [EMLRenewablesRFP@entergy.com](mailto:EMLRenewablesRFP@entergy.com). To be eligible to submit a proposal, Bidders must complete the [Bidder Registration Agreement](#) process between February 28, 2022 and March 3, 2022. Learn more at the [Notice of Release](#).

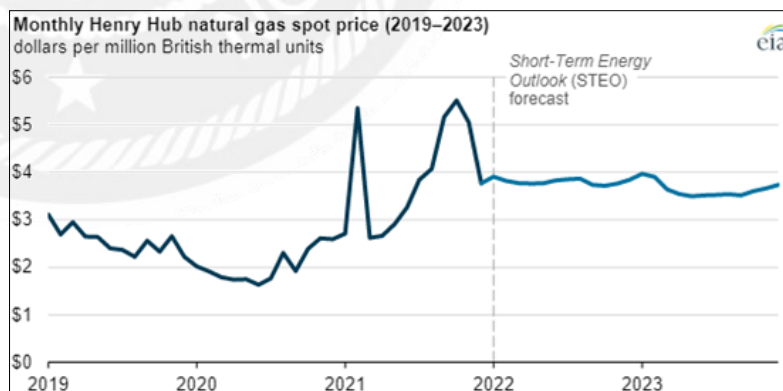


## Other News

### EIA Forecasts Natural Gas Prices to Remain Near \$4/MMBtu in 2022

In its January [Short-Term Energy Outlook](#) (STEO), the Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecast that the natural gas spot price at the U.S. benchmark Henry Hub will average \$3.79 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) in 2022,

slightly less than its 2021 average of \$3.91/MMBtu. Deviations in winter weather expectations, the potential for extreme weather events, and a rise in demand for natural gas imports in Europe and Asia have contributed to the recent variability and volatility in natural gas prices. Natural gas prices are expected to decline slightly in 2023, averaging \$3.63/MMBtu, as growth in natural gas production outpaces growth in domestic demand and exports.

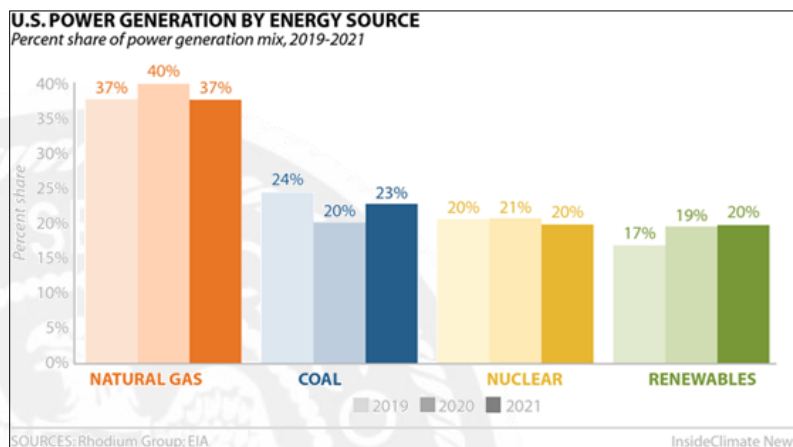






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The sharp increase in national natural gas prices in February 2021 and October 2021 drove a reduction in power generated by natural gas and an increase in power generated from coal. Renewable energy saw its percent share of national power generation grow by 1% while nuclear power decreased by 1% in 2021. The EIA predicts that the share of electricity generated from natural gas in the U.S. will slightly decrease in 2023 as more renewable electric power generation is installed. Meanwhile, exports of natural gas are expected to continue to grow with more LNG export terminals coming online.



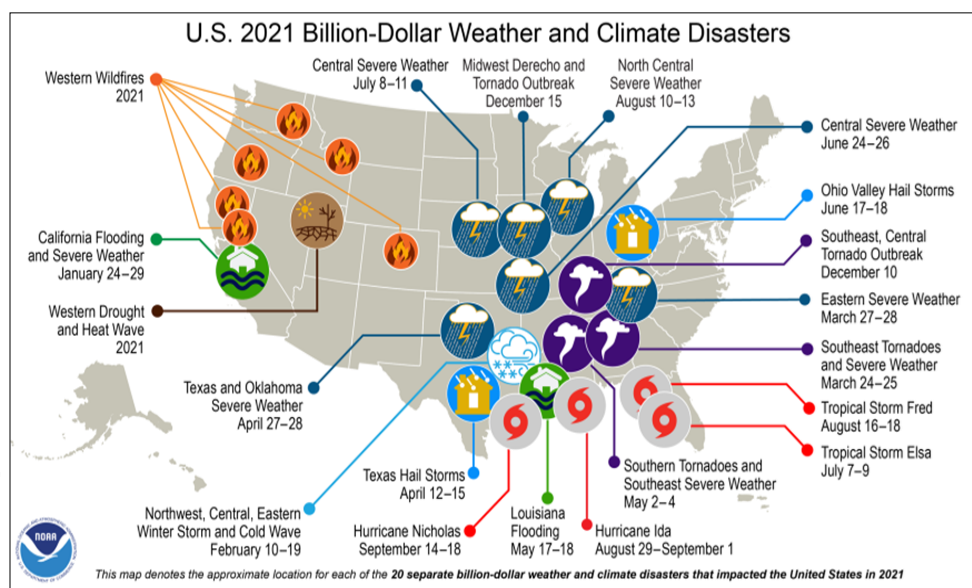
## NERC LRTA Calls for Focus on Electric Reliability

Last month, the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) published its [2021 Long-Term Reliability Assessment](#) (LRTA), which is the independent assessment and comprehensive report on the adequacy of planned bulk power system resources to meet electricity demand across North American through 2031. The LRTA-specified areas of focus include (1) Developing sufficient flexible resources to support increasing levels of variable generation uncertainty and (2) Improving coordination between the natural gas and electricity industries.

Overall, all Southeast Reliability Corporation (SERC) assessment areas are projected to maintain sufficient capacity to meet the prospective reserve margins during the assessment time frame. SERC continues to see growth in natural-gas-fired generation, which is projected to make up over 50% of the generating capacity (approximately 155,000 MW) for the first time. Natural gas (50.2%), coal (24.1%), and nuclear (13.2%) generation will be the dominant fuel types by the end of the assessment period. Hydro, renewables, and other fuel types (12%) will grow but remains a minor resource. Specific information regarding SERC's Central and Southeast sub-regions, where **Mississippi** is located, can be found on pages 93 and 95 of the LRTA.

## Twelve \$1 Billion Disasters Hit the Southeast in 2021

There were 20 separate [billion-dollar weather and climate disasters](#) in 2021, just two events shy of the record set in 2020. These events caused at least 688 people to lose their lives and included eight severe weather events, four tropical cyclone events, three tornado outbreaks, two flooding events, one drought/heat wave event, one winter storm/cold wave event and one wildfire event.





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The U.S. disaster costs for 2021 exceeded \$145 billion, which is the third-highest cost since record keeping began in 1980. Hurricane Ida was the costliest event of the year (\$75 billion) and ranks among the top-five most costly hurricanes on record (since 1980). The historic mid-February winter storm/cold wave was the costliest winter storm on record (\$24 billion) — in inflation-adjusted terms, twice as costly as the “Storm of the Century” in March 1993.

## DOE Releases Guidebook to Boost Solar Energy Use in Communities

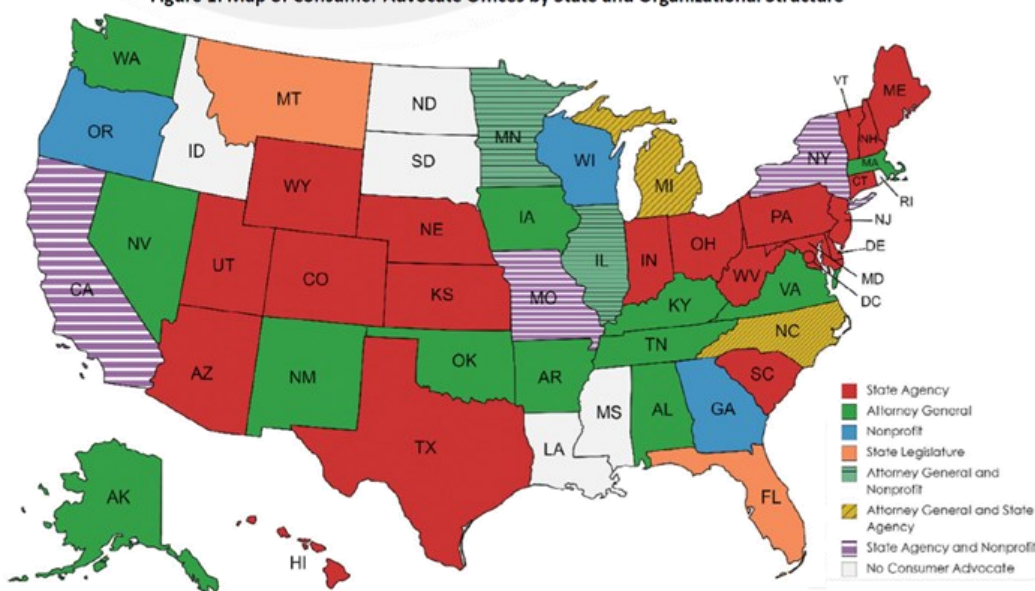
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released the third edition of its “[Solar Power in Your Community](#)” guidebook to help local governments unlock environmental and economic benefits of increased solar deployment in their communities. This latest edition contains nearly 40 case studies from around the country that show field-tested approaches to reduce solar market barriers, highlights new technologies and strategies to maximize the benefits of solar, such as combining solar with energy storage to improve resilience, and emphasizes strategies for improving the equity of solar deployment at the local level. The Solar Power in Your Community guidebook is a one-stop-shop for information about solar deployment, providing best practices, case studies, and links to resources developed by DOE, the National Laboratories, and other trusted sources.

## New Reports Examine State Commission Approaches to Intervenor Compensation and Engagement with Consumer Advocates

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Center for Partnerships & Innovation (CPI) released two new reports examining how ratepayer interests are represented in state public utility commissions. The publications explore state programs for intervenor compensation and assess engagement between PUCs and consumer advocates.

Intervenor compensation is the practice of reimbursing individuals or groups for the cost of their involvement in utility regulatory proceedings. [State Approaches to Intervenor Compensation](#) provides a state-by-state scan of intervenor compensation practices, reviewing states’ legislative authorization for intervenor compensation, evaluating attributes of active intervenor compensation programs and providing insights on program implementation through case studies. The report finds that 16 states currently have an authorized intervenor compensation, financing or funding program in their legislative rules and statutes with programs.

Figure 1: Map of Consumer Advocate Offices by State and Organizational Structure



*Mississippi is one of five states with no recognized Consumer Advocate office.*





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[Public Utilities Commissions and Consumer Advocates: Protecting the Public Interest](#), describes the history of engagement between PUCs and consumer advocates, examines the current and emerging state of engagement between the two parties and offers ideas for how relationships can be strengthened. The mini guide also features interviews with commissioners, commission staff and consumer advocates. Given the increasingly complexity of issues brought before commissions, the role of the consumer advocate and its relationship to the PUC is of growing importance to the public interest. **Mississippi** is one of five states with no recognized Consumer Advocate office.

## Legislation Tracker













The third week of the 2022 Legislative Session is now complete and the deadline to introduce bills has passed. Committee meetings will be full steam ahead before the first committee deadline on Tuesday, February 1. 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 bring attention to the following:

- [HB 939](#): Municipalities, certain; extend repealer on authority to create program addressing delinquent customer water bills.
- [HB 970](#): Municipally owned electric utility, certain; possesses same powers as rural EPA and may enter certain interlocal agreements.
- [HB 1028](#): Public Service Commission; remove from the provisions of the Mississippi Budget Transparency and Simplification Act.
- [HB 1029](#): Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Act; create.
- [HB 1030](#): Mississippi Broadband Expansion Act; create.
- [HB 1031](#): Capital City Water/Sewer Projects Fund; create and require DFA to develop plan for improvements projects.
- [HB 1337](#): Public Service Commission; require to mandate annual filings by rural water associations.
- [SB 2038](#): Municipally owned waterworks; prohibit from charging higher rates to certain customers in another municipality.
- [SB 2474](#): Municipally owned electric utilities; shall have same powers as electric power cooperatives.
- [SB 2534](#): Municipally owned utilities; authorize to accept electronic payments and to absorb transaction fees in its rate base.
- [SB 2535](#): Helping Mississippians Afford Broadband Act; create.
- [SB 2604](#): Mississippi Broadband Expansion Act; enact
- [SB 2789](#): Public Service Commission; remove from the provisions of the Mississippi Budget Transparency and Simplification Act
- [SB 2814](#): Mississippi Water Quality Commission; create for the purpose of providing oversight of certain water and sewer systems.
- [SB 2822](#): "Mississippi Water and Wastewater Transformation Infrastructure Grant Program Act of 2022"; establish.
- [SB 2898](#): Certain municipalities allowed to establish overdue water/sewer payment programs; extend repealer on authority for.

*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

-  **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) Establishing Docket and Inviting Comment to review and consider Community Solar Proposals. 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 (January 18, 2022), 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.
-  **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Change Rates by filing a [RenewABLE Community Option Rate Schedule \(Schedule RCO\)](#). **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** [RenewABLE Community Option](#) (RCO) offering is a form of community solar and utilizes an on-going (pay-as-you-go) payment model. Customers who elect to participate in RCO will continue to be billed for electric service as they did prior to taking service under Schedule RCO. However, customers taking service under Schedule RCO will see two additional line items on their bill: (a) a fixed subscription charge and (b) a variable bill credit. The combined effect of the fixed subscription charge and the variable bill credit will be either a net cost or net credit to the customer's monthly bill depending on the amount of energy generated each calendar month by the renewable resource facility. **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** proposes a monthly subscription charge of \$7.00 per kW and a monthly subscription charge of \$6.00 per kW for income qualified customers. **Parties wishing to intervene and file comments may do so by February 9, 2022.**
-  **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Response](#) to **The Liberty Consulting Group's** Fuel Audit and Management Review of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** for the Audit Period of 2020-2021 and the **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** Fuel Adjustment Audit for the Period from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.
-  **The Commission** issued a [Recommended Order](#) after referral to the Central District Commissioner in regards to the Notice of the **Town of Edwards** of its Intent to Increase Rates for Water Service in its Certificated Area in **Hinds County**. An average rate jurisdictional user of 6,000 gallons/month is currently billed \$37.00 but such user's bill would increase to \$38.00 or a \$1.00 more if the Notice of Intent proposal submitted by Edwards is approved.
-  **Peerless Network Holdings, Inc.** and **Open Market Inc.** filed a [Supplement](#) to their Joint Application to disclose three minor corporate changes that have occurred since the filing of the initial application.
-  **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Compliance Filing](#) for its Fuel Cost Recovery and Energy Cost Management Factors for February 2022 through January 2023. **Mississippi Power Company** submitted its final version of the [Energy Cost Management Clause, Schedule ECM-2A](#) adhering to the **Commission's** January 18, 2022, Order.
-  **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Motion to Intervene](#) in the Docket to Review Community Solar Proposals.
-  **The Commission** issued an [Order Approving](#) Compliance Tariffs for **Spire Mississippi, Inc.** in regards to its Notice of Intent to Establish a Supplemental Growth Rider. The Supplemental Growth Rider is designed to encourage industrial development and job creation by providing an incentive for the Company to extend gas service to industrial projects which are not otherwise currently feasible for the Company to fund.
-  **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Compliance Filing](#) in regards to its Notice of Intent to Implement Standard Rate Changes in compliance with the **Commission's** January 18, 2022, Order. **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** submitted its [Power Management Rider Schedule PMR-13](#) and a redlined version with changes to adhere to the **Commission's** January Order.
-  **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) Approving Compliance Tariffs for **CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.'s** "Quick Start" Energy Efficiency Program Portfolio and Plan, Including Cost Recovery Rider. The purpose of the Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery (EECR) Rider is to establish the EECR Rates by which **CenterPoint Energy** will recover its energy efficiency Quick Start program costs.
-  **The Commission** also issued an [Order Approving Compliance Tariffs for CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.'s](#) Routine Changes in its Rate Regulation Adjustment Rider (RRA) Filing For 12 Months December 31, 2020 pursuant to the **Commission's** September 9, 2021 Order. Under the RRA, the monthly minimum residential bill shall not be less than \$15.45 net, no less than \$27.83 net for a commercial bill, and not less than \$197.07 for a large volume/industrial customer.
-  **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** confidentially filed the [Map of Transmission System](#) in accordance with the **Commission's** January 18, 2022, [Order](#) conditionally approving **Entergy Mississippi's** Grid Modernization Cost Adjustment Factor under Grid Modernization Rider Schedule GMR-1.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **21** complaints in the Central District.

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Electric Companies | 15 |
| Telecommunications | 4  |
| Water/Sewer        | 2  |

Last week, the Central District received a total of **230** 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.*