

February 9, 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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## ***“Smishing” is on the Rise – Know How to Spot It and Defend Against It***



**“Smishing”** is a combination of texting and phishing. When cyber criminals “phish,” they send fraudulent emails that seek to trick the recipient into opening malicious links or attachments. Smishing simply uses text messages instead of email to try to steal your personal data or download malware.

According to a data analysis service, mobile phone users between the ages of 18 and 24 send more than 2,022 texts each month and receive 1,831. Texting is the most common use of smartphones. While we have generally learned to be suspicious of certain emails, people tend to be less wary while on their phones.

Cyber attackers understand this and use people’s lowered sense of awareness while on their phones to trick them into taking a certain action they should not take. Perhaps they fool you into providing your credit card details, get you to call a phone number to get your banking information, or convince you to fill out an online survey to harvest your personal information. Just like in email phishing attacks, cyber criminals often play on your emotions to get you to act by creating a sense of urgency or curiosity. These text messaging attacks are dangerous because a text offers far less information and fewer clues than an email, making it much harder for you to detect that something is wrong.

A common scam is a message telling you that you’ve won an iPhone, and that you only need to click on a link and fill out a survey to claim it. In reality, there is no phone, and the survey is designed to harvest your personal information. Another is a message stating that a package could not be delivered with a link to a website where you are asked to provide information needed to complete delivery, including your credit card details to cover “service charges.” In some cases, these sites may even ask you to install an unauthorized mobile app that infects and takes over your device.



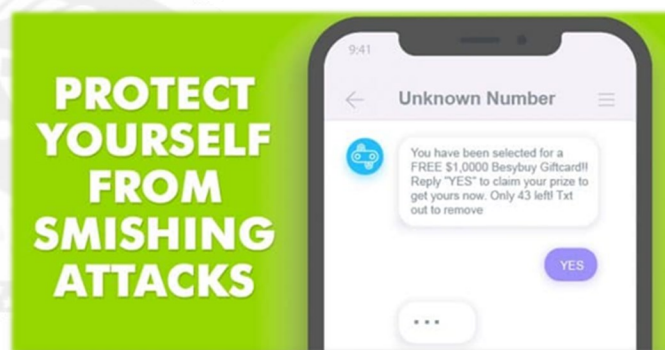
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Cyber criminals will even combine phone and messaging attacks. For example, you may get an urgent text message from your bank asking if you authorized an odd payment. The message asks you to reply YES or NO to confirm the payment. If you respond, the cybercriminal now knows you are willing to engage and will call you pretending to be the bank's fraud department. They will then try to talk you out of your financial and credit card information, or even your bank account's login and password.

### ***How to Spot a Smishing Attack:***

To spot an attack, ask yourself the following questions: 1. Does the message create a tremendous sense of urgency attempting to rush or pressure you into taking an action? 2. Is the message taking you to websites that ask for your personal information, credit card, passwords, or other sensitive information? 3. Does the message sound too good to be true? 4. Does the linked website or service force you to pay using nonstandard methods such as Bitcoin, gift cards, or Western Union transfers? 5. Does the message ask you for the multi-factor authentication code generated by your banking app or sent to your phone? 6. Does the message look like the equivalent of a "wrong number"? If so, do not respond to it or attempt to contact the sender; just delete it.

If you get a message that alarms you from a company you know, call the company directly. Do not use the phone number included in the message: look for a trusted phone number instead. Also, remember that most government agencies, such as tax or law enforcement agencies, will never contact you via text message, they will only contact you through the U.S. Postal Service mail.



When it comes to messaging attacks or smishing, you are the best defense. Do not respond to smishing messages, even to ask the sender to stop contacting you. Responding to Smishing messages verifies that your phone number is active and that you are willing to open such messages, which may lead to an increase in the unsolicited text messages you receive.

Smishing is a crime of trickery. Don't get hooked! However, you can help warn others of smishing scams by [filing a complaint at the FCC](#). You can also report smishing activity to the [MPSC No Call Division](#) if the smishing text is sent from a 10-digit phone number.

## Other News

### **Mississippi Power Co. Issues Request for Solar Generation**

Mississippi Power Co. (MPCo) has announced a [request for proposals \(RFP\) for solar photovoltaic renewable resources](#). MPCo seeks to procure approximately 200 MW of renewable energy from solar photovoltaic resources. Qualifying proposals submitted through this RFP will afford MPCo an opportunity to review market offerings of solar resources and determine whether there are economic and viable solar energy projects suitable to meet the needs of its customers.

The submitted proposals must be for projects of at least 20 MW<sub>AC</sub>. MPCo will consider proposals for 25-year term energy-only power purchase agreements for solar photovoltaic renewable resources from bidders who are not affiliates of MPCo or Southern Company. MPCo would receive all the environmental attributes from the projects.





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Resources must be located in Mississippi and must be directly interconnected with MPCo's transmission system. Bids for the RFP must be received by 6 p.m. CST on March 15, 2022. See the [RFP Guidelines](#), [RFP Proposal Documents](#) and [FAQs](#).

## **MISO Submits Cost Allocation Methodology to FERC**

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) filed its [Proposed Revisions to the MISO Open Access Transmission, Energy and Operating Reserve Markets Tariff](#) at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) late last week. MISO is the country's biggest grid operator by land area, stretching from Louisiana to Minnesota encompassing parts of 15 states, including **Mississippi**. Entergy Corp, Cooperative Energy and other Southern U.S. utilities joined MISO in 2013 creating the MISO South subregion.

Historically, costs for big regional transmission projects were applied via a "postage-stamp" cost allocation methodology where beneficiaries are charged the same rate across the organization's footprint. However, this methodology has fallen out of favor due to the grid connection bottleneck between MISO North and MISO South. The transmission bottleneck limits the benefits shared between the two regions. MISO has proposed a modified postage-stamp methodology under which MISO North customers would pay for transmission projects in the north, and MISO South customers would pay for projects in the south. Comments on the proposal are due to FERC by March 7. FERC should rule on the proposal within a couple of months.



Last week, I met with fellow utility regulators from within the MISO footprint to discuss how our respective states view Long Range Transmission Planning, how project benefits are identified and valued, and how various cost allocation methodologies could be applied.

*From left to right: Commissioner Joe Sullivan of Minnesota; Commissioner Dan Scripps of Michigan; Commissioner Kim O'Guinn of Arkansas; Commissioner Lambert Boissiere of Louisiana; and Commissioner Bailey.*

## **NARUC News**

### **NARUC Winter Policy Summit**

Next week, I will be in Washington, DC for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Winter Policy Summit. I will be participating in committee business sessions, national and regional Commissioner meetings and hearing from experts in utility policy, rate design, finance and infrastructure. I hope to share more information about my experience next week.



February 13-16, 2022  
Washington Renaissance Hotel  
Washington, D.C.

### **New NRRI Paper Addresses the Economics of Decarbonization**

The National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI is the research arm of NARUC) has released a new paper that describes an important and controversial tool for decarbonizing the electric system and the economy -- carbon capture and sequestration, also known as CCS.



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The [\*Economics of Carbon Capture and Sequestration\*](#), funded by the Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, provides a comprehensive overview of the economics of carbon capture and sequestration. It describes the different factors (both revenues and costs) that affect the economic viability of CCS. Current and emerging issues associated with pricing in the wholesale electric markets and evaluations of the impacts of carbon offsets on the economics of CCS as a revenue source and as a competitive alternative for decarbonization are provided. Finally, the report explores the importance of decarbonization plans in determining the need for CCS.

## Reminder of Net Metering in MS

The deadline to file to intervene in the **Docket to Review Community Solar Proposals** is February 10. The deadline to file comments is March 22.

The deadline to file final written comments on proposed revisions to the **Mississippi Renewable Energy Net Metering Rule and the Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule** is February 15. A public hearing on the final proposed rule modifications shall take place on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

## Highlights from the February 8, 2022, Open Docket Meeting

*The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on February 8, 2022, at 10:00 am CT to consider the following [agenda](#) items:*

- ☑ **The Commission** considered and approved an [Order Referring](#) the Application of **Marshall County Water Association, Inc.** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in a Specified area in **Marshall County** to the Northern District Commissioner.
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and approved an [Order Referring](#) the Application **Mt. Comfort Water Association, Inc.** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in a Specified area in **Lafayette County** to the Northern District Commissioner.
- ☑ **The Commission** approved an [Order Referring](#) **Great River Operating Company, LLC's** Notice of **Wilco Properties, Inc.** Seeking a Supplemental Certificate Pertaining to a Proposed Sewer System located in **Desoto County** to a hearing officer.
- ☑ **The Commission** approved an [Order Referring](#) the Petition of **Great River Operating Company, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Approving the Provision of Water Service in a Specified Area in **Lafayette County** to a hearing officer.
- ☑ **The Commission** approved an [Order Referring](#) the Notice of Intent of **Great River Operating Company, LLC** to Establish Initial and Temporary Rates for Water Service for the **Twelve Oaks Subdivision** in **Lafayette County** to a hearing officer.
- ☑ **The Commission** approved an [Order Referring](#) the Notice of Intent of **Great River Operating Company, LLC** to Establish Initial and Temporary Rates for Wastewater Disposal Service for the **Lake Forest Subdivision** in **Warren County** [to a hearing officer.](#)
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and approved an [Order Referring](#), the Complaint of **Airus, Inc. v. BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mississippi** to a hearing officer for hearing, report, and recommendation of an appropriate Order, or any other action necessary.
- ☑ **The Commission** also considered and approved an **Order issuing a Request for Proposals** related to independent professional service contracts, as authorized by Miss. Code Ann. § 77-1-55, from engineering and economic consultants interested in providing services.



## Legislation Tracker

The House and Senate is having long days to consider and vote on the bills that have come out of committee. Thursday, February 10 is the deadline for floor action on general bills originating in a chamber's own house. The Commission continues watching numerous bills that could impact customers, certain utilities or the MPSC.

- [HB 939](#): Municipalities, certain; extend repealer on authority to create program addressing delinquent customer water bills. ***Passed the House.***
- [HB 1028](#): Public Service Commission; remove from the provisions of the Mississippi Budget Transparency and Simplification Act. ***Pending in House.***
- [HB 1029](#): Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Act; create. ***Pending in House.***
- [HB 1031](#): Capital City Water/Sewer Projects Fund; create and require DFA to develop plan for improvements projects. ***Passed the House; Transmitted to Senate.***
- [HB 1376](#): MS Consumer Privacy Act; create to prohibit any agency, department or institution from releasing any personal information. ***Passed the House.***
- [HB 1421](#): Establish ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Programs under Department of Health. ***Passed the House.***
- [HB 1425](#): Establish ARPA Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Programs under DEQ and Department of Health. ***Passed the House.***
- [SB 2474](#): Municipally owned electric utilities; shall have same powers as electric power cooperatives. ***Passed the Senate. Transmitted to House.***
- [SB 2604](#): Mississippi Broadband Expansion Act; enact. ***Passed the Senate.***
- [SB 2814](#): Mississippi Water Quality Commission; create for the purpose of providing oversight of certain water and sewer systems. ***Substitute Bill passed AET Committee.***
- [SB 2822](#): "Mississippi Water and Wastewater Transformation Infrastructure Grant Program Act of 2022"; establish. ***Passed the Senate.***
- [SB 2898](#): Certain municipalities allowed to establish overdue water/sewer payment programs; extend repealer on authority for. ***Substitute Bill passed Municipalities and AET Committee.***

*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 following entities filed motions to intervene in the **Docket to Review Community Solar Proposals**. This 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: [Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#); [Dimension Renewable Energy, LLC](#); [National Audubon Society](#).
- ☞ [The Public Utilities Staff prepared Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment \(PGA\) Audit Reports for the period of September 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 for the following utilities: \[Atmos Energy\]\(#\); \[CenterPoint Energy\]\(#\); \[Spire Mississippi Inc.\]\(#\)](#)
- ☞ [The Public Utilities Staff](#) also prepared Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Audit Reports for the period of October 1, 2021 through October 30, 2021 for the following utilities: [Atmos Energy](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire Mississippi Inc.](#)
- ☞ [Rankin County](#) filed Motions to Intervene in [Entergy Mississippi, LLC's](#) Grid Modernization Rider ([GMR-1](#)), Restructuring Credit Rider Schedule ([RC-1](#)), MISO Cost and Revenue Schedule ([MISO-2](#)), Power Management Rider ([PMR-12](#)) and Unit Power Cost Recover Rider ([UPC-4](#)).





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- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Compliance Filing](#) in regards to its Notice of Intent to Implement Revisions to the Formula Rate Plan. **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed this compliance to comply with the **Commission's** January 18, 2022, Order, which was established to Review the Efficacy and Fairness of the Net Metering and Interconnection Rules. **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** proposes to implement revisions to its Residential Rate Schedule, Residential Electric Water Heating Rate Schedule, and General Lighting and Power Service Rate Schedule to incorporate a fully costed fixed customer charge from their most recent class cost of service study filed with the **Commission**.
- ✎ In compliance with the **Commission's** Order of April 6, 2021, **Fusion, LLC; Fusion Connect; and Fusion Cloud Service, LLC** filed their [Notice of Consummation](#) to the Commission that the material change in ultimate control of **Fusion, LLC and Fusion Cloud Services, LLC** was consummated on December 24, 2021.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued a [Recommended Order](#) Approving Sale and Transfer of the Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity, along with sewer assets, held by **Briarwood Waste Control, Inc.**, to **Waste Water Solutions, LLC** for the provision of sewer service in specified areas of **Lauderdale County**.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving **Mississippi Power Company's** [Compliance Filing](#) 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 Commission** issued a [Compliance Order](#) approving **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** [Compliance Filing](#) in regards to its Notice of Intent to Implement Standard Rate Changes. **The Commission** authorized **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** to apply its weighted-average cost of capital (WACC) as the carrying cost for the unamortized fuel balance that is recovered through the Company's Power Management Rider Schedule (PMR-13).
- ✎ **Atmos Energy** filed its [Compliance Filing](#) of its customers' and the Company's charitable contributions as required by the **Commission's** March 23, 2011, Order.
- ✎ **Pearl River Valley Communications, LLC d/b/a Pearl Comm** filed its [Informational Tariff](#) for Fiber Optic Service and Lifeline Assistance.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to make routine changes in rates by offering a Municipal Owned and Maintained Street Lighting Rate Schedule. Pursuant to the Municipally Owned and Maintained Street Lighting Rate Schedule, the municipality shall be responsible for maintaining the Customer-Owned Facilities in good working order and the Customer shall be required to contract with a Company-approved third party for installation and maintenance of the Customer-Owned Facilities, and Customer shall be responsible for any costs associated with the installation and maintenance of the Customer-Owned Facilities. The [Net Monthly Bill](#) for a lighting fixture installed on a Customer-owned pole is a fixed charge of \$1.12 per fixture per month plus an energy charge of \$0.08860 per kWh. The Net Monthly Bill for a fixture installed on a Company-owned distribution pole is a fixed charge of \$1.12 per fixture per month, the energy charge of \$0.08860 per kWh, and an attachment fee of \$0.71 per fixture per month.



**Last week, I attended the CORE Pipeline Safety Training for First Responders and Operators in Pearl, MS hosted by The Paradigm Alliance, Inc.**



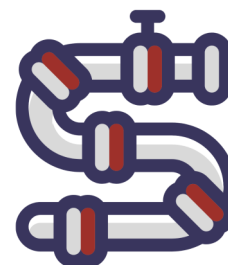


Our Pipeline Safety Division completed **4** construction inspections in the Central District during the month of January.

The total amount of construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of January is approximately **\$8,162,200**.

**“Reporting of Construction Work”**- The rule is found in Chapter 57.1: All Construction work involving gas facilities in which the estimated cost of proposed facilities is in excess of eight thousand dollars are related facilities that would be governed by the Federal Minimum Safety Requirements, will be reported in writing, or via telephone to the MS Public Service Commission prior to starting date of such construction. (There are exceptions for emergencies.)

*The Commission encourages all intra-state natural gas operators to comply with the rule.*



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **32** complaints in the Central District.

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Electric Companies | 21 |
| Telecommunications | 5  |
| Natural Gas        | 4  |
| Water/Sewer        | 2  |

Last week, the Central District received a total of **222** 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.*

In cooperation with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, we have sent Notices of Alleged Violation (NAV) to five companies for alleged violations of the Mississippi No-Call law. The five companies include: Apollo Health Group, Health Team One, High Speed Marketing, Primo Dialler and Quantum 3 Media LLC. The five companies represent 46 complaints.

An investigation by the Commission and Office of the Attorney General found these companies have allegedly been calling numerous consumers whose numbers are on the Mississippi Do Not Call Registry. The Office of the Attorney General sent the NAVs on behalf of the Commission. The NAVs allow companies an informal opportunity to resolve the alleged violations before litigation. If the company is found guilty of the violation, they are subject to a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each violation.

Mississippi Public Service Commissioner Brent Bailey



**Notice of Alleged Violation**  
**Issued to 5 Companies**



Central District Office