

March 30, 2022



FROM THE DESK OF
COMMISSIONER
BRENT BAILEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE

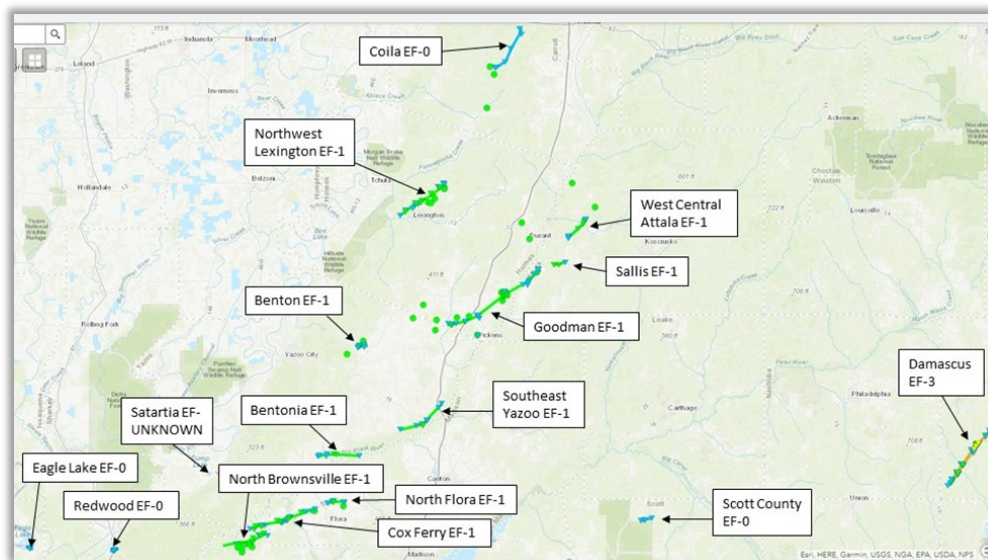


The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues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

Change in Seasons Brings Strong Storms

March 20, 2022, was the first day of Spring. Along with the seasonal pollen and associated allergies, seasonal storms are the norm. Just days after the vernal equinox, tornadoes tore through parts of Mississippi on March 22. The National Weather Service in Jackson surveyed damage in the following days and verified that at least 27 tornadoes touched down across the state. The strongest was rated an EF-3 and struck the Damascus community in Kemper County. While a couple of injuries were reported, I am thankful that no fatalities resulted from those tornadoes. The maps below illustrate the locations of the tornadoes on March 22.



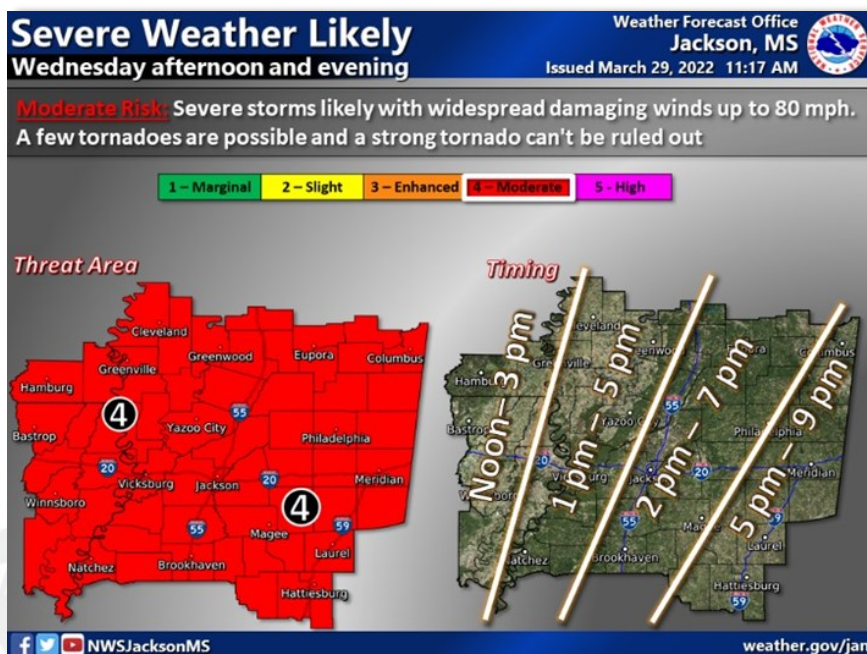
Source: National Weather Service, Jackson, MS



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Now Mississippi must brace for another round of potentially severe weather today (March 30).

Thunderstorms and showers will pass through the entire state in the afternoon and into the evening, with wind gusts of up to 70-80 mph and the possibility of a few tornadoes, according to the National Weather Service. The bad weather will begin in the western part of the state by 1 pm and should exit the eastern part of the state around night fall. The entire Central Mississippi area faces a level 4, or moderate, risk for severe weather. Oh, by the way, another storm system is expected to reach Mississippi on Saturday.



Stay Weather Aware and Get Storm Ready

Preparation before severe weather strikes is key to staying safe and minimizing impacts. The National Weather Service provides tips on ways you and your family can prepare for severe weather.

- **Be Weather-Ready:** Check the local forecast regularly to see if you're at risk for severe weather.
- **Sign Up for Notifications:** Know how your community sends warnings.
- **Create a Communications Plan:** Have a family plan that includes an emergency meeting place and related information.
- **Identify a Safe Place:** Pick a safe room in your home such as a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.
- **Practice Your Plan:** Conduct a family severe thunderstorm drill regularly so everyone knows what to do if a damaging wind or large hail is approaching. Don't forget pets!
- **Prepare Your Home:** Keep trees and branches trimmed near your house. Before severe weather hits, secure loose objects, close windows and doors, and move any valuable objects inside or under a sturdy structure.
- **Help Your Neighbor:** Take CPR training so you can help if someone is hurt during severe weather.
- **Get more ideas for a plan at:** <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

Utilities Prepare as Well

The Mississippi Public Service Commission's recently completed [Public Utility Infrastructure Review Report](#) took an in-depth review of the actions that utilities across the state take to prepare for extreme weather conditions. Most utilities have detailed emergency response plans and conduct regular drills and exercises to evaluate processes and staff readiness.



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When an actual extreme weather event is anticipated, utility emergency response plans are activated. Preparations for additional personnel and mutual aid agreements begin. Pre-event meetings to review strategies, communications, and other action items take place. This includes the placement of key personnel, identification of necessary materials and equipment, and outreach to critical facilities. After events, most utilities review their response and incorporate lessons learned so that systems are restored quicker, safer and more efficiently in the future. Check out the PUIR Report to learn more.



FERC News

FERC Grants Quicker MISO Interconnection Queue Option

Earlier this month, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's (MISO) request to give generator interconnection customers an opportunity to reduce their time in the interconnection queue from more than 500 days to a single year. An interconnection customer, such as utility-scale solar farm developer, could obtain a faster interconnection review process in return for proceeding without definitive network upgrade cost information. Last month, the MISO queue held 133 GW of projects, comprising mostly of renewable generation.

FERC Reverses Course on Natural Gas Policy Statements

During its March 24, 2022, meeting, FERC announced that, after further consideration, the two natural gas policy statements issued in February would be redesignated as "draft" policy statements. FERC will seek further public comment on these policy statements.

In February, FERC turned the natural gas industry on its head when the agency voted 3-2 to [approve two policies](#) that amend its certification process for pending and new project applications for natural gas pipelines and liquefied natural gas terminals. Given the extreme volatility in the fuels commodities markets due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, FERC's action was not well received across the political spectrum.



Legislation Tracker

Over the weekend, the legislature acted on two major pieces of legislation. First the conference report of the state personal income tax cut compromise plan (eliminates the 4% tax bracket by 2023; 5% bracket cut to 4.7% by 2024, 4.4% by 2025 and 4.0% by 2026) passed the House on a vote of 92 to 23 and passed the Senate by a vote of 39 to 10. Also, the Mississippi Joint Legislative Reapportionment Committee (JLRC) met and adopted new legislative redistricting maps for the Mississippi [House Districts](#) and [Senate Districts](#). Each chamber has passed their own version of their redistricting maps. They now head to the other chamber for passage.

Both chambers have passed resolutions to extend Sine Die deadlines by a couple of days, including those that relate to appropriations. The House approved and adopted the Conference Report for HB 1029 to create the Office of Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM). We still do not have **PSC** or **Public Utilities Staff** appropriations bills. The delay is likely due to work on larger funding components like education and health care. The Legislature is still shooting for Friday as the final day of the session. **The Commission** continues watching numerous bills that could impact customers, certain utilities, or the MPSC.



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- [HB 1029CR](#): Mississippi Broadband Expansion and Accessibility Act; create. *House and Senate Conference Filed Reports; House Conference Report Adopted*
- [HB 1031CR](#): Capital City Water/Sewer Projects Fund; create and require DFA to develop plan for improvements projects. *House and Senate Conference Filed Reports; House Conference Report Adopted*
- [HB 1421CR](#): Establish ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Programs under Department of Health. *House and Senate Conference Filed Reports; Suspended from Deadlines by HC 89*
- [HB 1425](#): Establish ARPA Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Programs under DEQ and Department of Health. *Suspended from Deadlines by HC 89*
- [HB 1538CR2](#): Appropriation to the MS State Department of Health for the purpose of funding the ARPA Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Program. *House and Senate Conference Filed Reports; Recommended for Further Conference in the Senate and House; Suspended from Deadlines by HC 89*
- [HB 1607CR](#): Approving expenditure of special funds to defray expenses of the Mississippi Broadband Commission. *House and Senate Conference Filed Reports; Recommended for Further Conference in the Senate and House; Suspended from Deadlines by HC 89*
- [HB 1609](#): Mississippi Public Service Commission Annual Appropriation. *House and Senate Conference Filed Reports; Recommended for Further Conference in the Senate and House; Suspended from Deadlines by HC 89*
- [SB 2822](#): Establish the Mississippi Water and Wastewater Transformation Infrastructure Grant Program to be administered by the MSDF. *Suspended from Deadlines by HC 89*
- [SB 2898](#): Certain municipalities allowed to establish overdue water/sewer payment programs; extend repealer on code section. *House and Senate Conference Filed Reports; House and Senate Conference Report Adopted*

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. I look forward to analyzing each bill once passed by each chamber and providing my thoughts in a future newsletter.

Last Week at the MPSC

- 📁 The following entities have filed comments in the Docket to Review Community solar Proposals: [Ameresco, Inc](#); [Entergy MS, LLC](#); [Sierra Club, Audubon Delta, and Other Parties](#);
- 📁 **East Mississippi Connect, LLC** filed its [Marketing Materials](#) in regards to its Application for Expansion of Its Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for the Limited Purpose of Offering Lifeline Service to Qualifying Low-Income Consumers in Additional Service Areas in the State.
- 📁 **Hattiesburg Farm, LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Expand its 50 MW Solar Generating Facility in **Forrest County**. The Expansion will include acquisition/lease of approximately 38 acres of land located east of the existing Facility and west of Highway 49, with solar panels to be installed on approximately 11 acres of the expansion land. The current schedule provides for construction of the Expansion to begin on June 1, 2022, and to become fully operational on December 31, 2022.



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- ✎ **Boomerang Wireless, LLC** filed its [Notice](#) of Change of Control Completed and its Updated Contact Information. Effective February 28, 2022, the transaction closed whereby **Boomerang Wireless, LLC d/b/a enTouch Wireless** ("Boomerang Wireless") is now officially 100% owned by **ViaOne Services**.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Construction Notice](#) of a project where it intends to replace terminal equipment at the Baxter Wilson 500 kV Substation to increase the line rating from 1,732 megaVolt-Amperes ("MVA") to 1,940 MVA, enhancing **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Capacity Import Limit ("CIL") and reliability for **Entergy Mississippi's** customers. Also, the project seeks to increase the capacity of the Perryville-Baxter Wilson path, reduce generation curtailment during certain outage scenarios, eliminate high loading observed in the winter peak scenarios, and provide a more robust connection to the MISO transmission system. The \$1.71 million project will be referred to as the Baxter Wilson to Perryville Line Uprate Project and it will be located in **Warren County**.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** also filed a [Construction Notice](#) for its Brookhaven Transformer Upgrade Project in Lincoln County. This \$7.98 million dollar project will upgrade a 20 megaVolt-Amperes ("MVA") transformer to a 33 MVA transformer, install an additional feeder breaker, and construct approximately 1.1 miles of 3-phase distribution circuit line. The improvements will enhance reliability in the area and provide a more reliable backup feed to the local hospital.
- ✎ **Cooperative Energy** filed its [Net Metering Report and Interconnection Rule Report](#) for year 2021.
- ✎ **Gulf States Renewable Energy Industries Association (GSREIA)** filed its [Petition](#) for Late Intervention 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.
- ✎ **Rankin County** filed its [Motion](#) to Intervene in **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Notice of Intent to Implement Revisions to the Formula Rate Plan.
- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its [Application](#) for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Expand Natural Gas Service in **Madison County**. **Atmos Energy** has applied for an expansion of its existing certificated in the area of **Expedition Point Subdivision** which is located at the intersection of Mississippi Highway 43 and Browns Landing Road in southeastern **Madison County**. **Atmos Energy** plans to construct approximately 1.42 miles of 4-inch and 2-inch plastic distribution main to serve the initial phase of the subdivision. There are currently over 200 planned residences as well as 15 new businesses in the **Expedition Point** development. Three existing commercial buildings near **Expedition Point** and along Highway 43 are also potential customers.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed [Revised Direct Testimony](#) pertaining to its 2022 ECO Filing Pursuant to the Company's Environmental Compliance Overview Plan.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **22** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	10
Natural Gas	5
Telecommunications	4
Water/Sewer	3

Last week, the Central District received a total of **203** 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.