



**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*

## **Taking Stock of America's Energy Future**

Around this time of year, several annual reports are released that either review how the energy sectors performed in the prior year or predict future energy production, consumption and technology trends. This week's newsletter explores two such reports: the *Sustainable Energy in America 2022 Factbook* and the *2022 Annual Energy Outlook*.

The tenth edition of the *Sustainable Energy in America 2022 Factbook* was released on March 3. The Factbook provides new data and analysis about the performance of clean energy sectors by tracking year-on-year as well as long-term trends for the U.S. energy economy and offers a look at economics, market and investment dynamics, and technology trends.



Despite the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, 2021 was a record-breaking year for investment in the deployment of renewable power, battery storage and sustainable transportation. This growth was fueled by strong consumer demand, unprecedented injection of new capital into companies, technologies, projects and supportive new policies. Below are some of the key findings from the *Factbook*:

U.S. primary energy consumption grew 4.4 percent in 2021 and total U.S. power generation increased 3.1 percent as the economy recovered from COVID-19. Natural gas was the largest source of U.S. electricity generation, providing 38 percent of the total. Renewable energy provided 21 percent while coal-fired generation provided 22 percent, the first increase since 2014. Nuclear held steady at 19 percent.

**US electricity generation by fuel type (%)**



U.S. and global private energy investment increased in 2021. Large corporations continued to respond to consumer demand for sustainable energy resources. More than 45 GW of new power generation capacity was commissioned in 2021 – the largest capacity in nearly two decades. Renewable energy was the dominant source, adding 37 GW. Furthermore, the U.S. federal government committed \$80 billion for clean energy through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation.

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***Continued...***

Demand for U.S.-produced natural gas grew 9.4%, with liquified natural gas (LNG) exports jumping 64 percent and industrial, residential and commercial heating demand rising 0.4%, 4.7% and 1.9%, respectively. Meanwhile, natural gas burned for power generation dropped by 3.1 percent, due primarily to higher gas prices.

Total consumer spending increased significantly in 2021. However, the monthly cost of energy to an American household remained below 5 percent. Nationwide, 1.65 percent of household expenditures went to electricity and natural gas in 2021. An increase in gasoline spending reflects the rebound in travel.

Additional resources related to the *Factbook*: [Executive Summary](#); [Top 5 Trends](#); [Mississippi Clean Energy Facts](#).

Also released on March 3, the U.S. Energy Information Administration's [Annual Energy Outlook 2022](#) (AEO2022) explores long-term energy trends and projections of U.S. energy markets through 2050. The 2021 Annual Energy Outlook projected the share of renewables in the U.S. power generation mix to double from 21 percent in 2020 to 42 percent in 2050. The report also projected renewable energy to surpass natural gas as the predominant power generation source by 2030.

Highlights of AEO2022 include:

Petroleum and natural gas remain the most-consumed sources of energy in the United States through 2050, but renewable energy is the fastest growing.

Wind and solar incentives, along with falling technology costs, support robust competition with natural gas for electricity generation, while the shares of coal and nuclear power decrease in the U.S. electricity mix. State and federal policies continue to provide significant incentive to invest in renewable resources for electricity generation and transportation fuels, while technological advancements will contribute to driving down costs and increasing competitiveness of renewables.

U.S. crude oil production reaches record highs, while natural gas production is increasingly driven by natural gas exports. U.S. production of oil and natural gas will be partly driven by continued global demand through 2050. In most cases, EIA projects continued growth in U.S. liquefied natural gas export capacity, which supports growth in U.S. natural gas production and exports.

The AEO2022 narrative is divided into four main sections: [Introduction](#); [Consumption](#); [Electricity](#); [Production](#).

## ***It's National Consumer Protection Week!!!***

Every year since 1998, the Federal Trade Commission organizes events in the first full week of March as part of National Consumer Protection Week to educate and make people aware of their consumer rights. In the digital age, the focus on consumer protection has intensified as people can easily fall prey to robocall scams and online frauds. And the threats facing consumers seem to be increasing every year.



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The Federal Trade Commission is hosting [several online events](#) this week, and consumers are encouraged to attend or check out the information to brush up on their knowledge of how to protect themselves from scams and fraud and be a smart consumer. Imposters are taking their game to the next level, becoming more sophisticated and adopting new tactics to trick you out of your money. Be on the lookout for phone calls from people posing as your bank, the Social Security Administration, your health insurer, etc. Don't provide or confirm any personal information to a caller you weren't expecting. Just hang up. If you think the call could be genuine, contact the company or agency at a number you look up independently (using the back of your credit card, your account statement, etc.)

## **Global News**

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, also known as [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#). The report assesses the impacts of climate change on ecosystems, biodiversity, communities, as well as vulnerabilities and the ability for nature and human society to adapt to climate change. 270 authors from 67 countries contributed to the report.

## **NARUC News**

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) released a new report on approaches to estimating the value of resilience. [Valuing Resilience for Microgrids: Challenges, Innovative Approaches, and State Needs](#) summarizes new approaches to valuing resilience that can be applied to proposed investments in microgrids and other resources. Electric utilities are investing billions of dollars to strengthen generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure in the face of high-impact, low-frequency extreme events. As these threats impact electricity service and other infrastructure critical to public safety and the economy, officials and public utility commissions are looking to ensure that ratepayer and taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and all options are considered, including microgrids.

## **RTO News**

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) has added three new real-time data displays to the public website. The three graphs include:

**Regional Directional Transfer (RDT):** Provides the transfer view between the MISO South Region and the rest of MISO within the agreed upon transfer limit parameters. The graph is updated every 5 minutes.

**Generation Outages:** Provides a daily snapshot of available outage information and offers users a point-in-time view intended to provide awareness. It is updated twice daily at 12 AM and 12 PM.

**Solar Day-Ahead and Real-Time Generation:** MISO Day Ahead Solar Generation Forecast is provided by a third-party vendor. The forecast is based on Numerical Weather Prediction models with weather forecast services that are procured by the solar vendor.

Check out the new displays along with Fuel Mix, Real-Time Total Load and more at [Operations Displays](#).



## Highlights from the March 8, 2022, Special Meeting

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

- The Commission** granted an [Order](#) regarding the matter of the Joint Application for Approval of the Transfer of Control of **Centurytel of Adamsville, Inc.**, **Centurytel of North Mississippi** and **Centurytel Broadband Services, LLC** to **Connect Holding, LLC** [approving the Transfer of Control](#).
- The **Commission** granted an [Order](#) approving the matter of the Application of **GC Pivotal, LLC** d/b/a **Global Capacity**, together with **GTT Communications, Inc.** and **GTT Americas** request for the transfer of control of **GC Pivotal** in order to effectuate the joint prepackaged plan of reorganization of **GTT Parent** and certain of its Affiliates.
- The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) certifying the Auditor Findings [of Entergy Mississippi](#) Fuel Audit Reports to the **Legislature** in Accordance with Miss. Code Ann. Section 77-3-42. The reports relate to the fuel adjustment clause of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC**, which is set out and contained within their rider Schedule Energy Cost Recovery ("ECR-4 (Revised)"). **The Commission** retained **Liberty Consulting Group** and **HORNE LLP** to carry out the Fuel Adjustment audits for the period October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021. The two firms divided the contractual requirements with **Liberty** being responsible for [the assessment of procurement practices and procedures](#) and with **HORNE** being responsible for [the financial audit](#). The CPA of the **Public Utilities Staff** is to provide a summary of the audit to the **Commission**. The **Commission**, by law, is to provide a certification regarding the audit to the **Mississippi Legislature**.
- The **Commission** considered and approved an [Order](#) certifying the Auditor Findings and Certification of **Mississippi Power Company** Fuel Audit Reports to the **Legislature** in Accordance with Miss. Code Ann. Section 77-3-42. The reports relate to the fuel adjustment clause of **Mississippi Power Company**, which is set out and contained within the Company Rider Schedules FCR-2 and ECM-2A. The **Commission** retained **London Economics International** and **Carr Riggs Ingram** to carry out the Fuel Adjustment audit for the period October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021. The two firms divided the contractual requirements, with **LEI** being responsible for the [assessment of fuel and electricity procurement practices and procedures](#) and with **CRI** being responsible for the [financial audit](#). By statute, such audit must be reviewed by the CPA of the **Public Utilities Staff** when completed. **The Commission**, by law, is to provide a certification regarding the audit to the **Mississippi Legislature**.
- The Commission** considered and approved Orders granting **Rankin County**'s 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](#)).
- Other info pending.



## Legislation Tracker

Bills of interest to the MPSC fell victim to the March 1st deadline for committees to report out general bills and constitutional amendments that originated in the other chamber. Last night was the deadline for floor action on general bills and constitutional amendments that originated in the other chamber. March 15 is the deadline for floor action on appropriation and revenue bills. Conference reports containing compromises of bills that passed the two chambers in differing forms are due March 26 for appropriation and revenue bills and March 28 for general bills. April 3rd is the scheduled end of the 2022 Session. The Commission continues watching numerous bills that could impact customers, certain utilities, or the MPSC.

- [HB 1029](#): Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Act; create. *Concurred in Amend from Senate; Motion to Reconsider Entered; Decline to Concur/Invite Conference by House.*
- [HB 1031](#): Capital City Water/Sewer Projects Fund; create and require DFA to develop plan for improvements projects. *Returned for Concurrence by Senate; Decline to Concur/Invite Conference by House.*
- [HB 1421](#): Establish ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Programs under Department of Health. *Returned for Concurrence by Senate; Declined to Concur/Invite Conference by House.*
- [HB 1425](#): Establish ARPA Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Programs under DEQ and Department of Health. *Returned for Concurrence by Senate; Declined to Concur/Invite Conference by House.*
- [HB 1609](#): Mississippi Public Service Commission Annual Appropriation. *Referred to Appropriations.*
- [SB 2822](#): "Mississippi Water and Wastewater Transformation Infrastructure Grant Program Act of 2022"; establish. *Amended; Passed as Amended; Returned for Concurrence by House.*
- [SB 2898](#): Certain municipalities allowed to establish overdue water/sewer payment programs; extend repealer on authority for. *Amended; Passed as Amended by House.*

*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

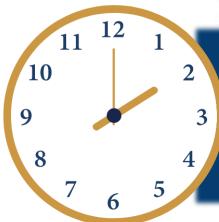
- ❑ **Mound Bayou Telephone and Communications, Inc.** filed its [General Exchange Tariff](#) Number 2 in regards to its Low-Income Assistance Program.
- ❑ **Town of Flora** filed its Notice to [water](#) and [sewer](#) Customers who reside more than one mile outside the corporate limits as well as an amended Exhibit 2, Tariff for both [water](#) and [sewer](#).
- ❑ **Rankin County** filed its [Motion](#) to Compel Responses to Data Request from **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** moving that **Entergy Mississippi LLC**, provide complete responses to the data request without the need for a non-disclosure agreement.

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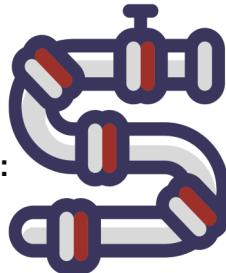
- ❑ The following regulated utilities have filed their Annual Reports as required by the Hire Mississippi Rule: [Spire MS Inc.](#); [Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#)
- ❑ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Evaluation Report](#) under Formula Rate Plan Rider Schedule FRP -7 (Second Revised) for the Calendar Year 2022. The annual look-back provides information for **the Public Utilities Staff** to conduct a review of the Company's expenses, capital accounts (rate base), revenues, and operational performance for the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2021, and determine whether and how much of a rate adjustment is appropriate. The filing lays out grid modernization investments, storm-related costs, demand-side management activities and other programs, and a new fully-costed customer charge. Per the filing and including changes in other billing factors such as vegetation management, etc., a typical customer using 1000 kWh per month bill could see an increase of \$3.13.



It's just about time to "spring forward." Daylight saving time 2022 officially begins Sunday, March 13 at 2 a.m., meaning we move the clock ahead one hour. For most people, that means moving the clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

Our Pipeline Safety Division completed **1** construction inspections in the Central District during the month of February.

The total amount of construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of February is approximately **\$6,112,000**.



**"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 **43** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	<b>30</b>
Water/Sewer	<b>9</b>
Natural Gas	<b>4</b>

Last week, the Central District received a total of **210** 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*