

June 16, 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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SEARUC 2022: Education and Enlightenment

The 2022 Southeast Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) Annual Educational Conference wrapped up in San Juan, Puerto Rico yesterday. Puerto Rico's rich history, isolation and recent tendency for natural disasters makes the U.S. territory an excellent case study for electric, water and wastewater infrastructure modernization, hardening and expansion. Many representatives and officials of Puerto Rico's agencies, utility companies and project developers spoke on the actions that the territory is taking to build a more reliable, more resilient and cleaner energy system.

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico's power grid, homes and businesses, and the associated restoration efforts were long and challenging. The island of Puerto Rico 100 is miles long and 35 miles wide. Yet over 8,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission wires had to be replaced. Poles, transformers and other electrical equipment was destroyed, and it took months to get these items shipped to the island. To this day, signs of the impacts of Hurricane Maria can be seen.



Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Pierluisi-Urrutia discussed the island's vision for the future.



Commissioner Bailey with SEARUC President and Puerto Rico Commissioner Lillian Mateo-Santos.

The majority of power in Puerto Rico is currently generated by coal, LNG and oil/diesel - all of which must be imported to the island. However, Puerto Rico has adopted a goal to be 100% renewable by 2050. The first benchmark is to supply 40% of electricity needs from renewable energy by 2030. Puerto Rico is now working with four federal agencies to accelerate work to strengthen the island's grid resilience and advance new initiatives to enhance Puerto Rico's energy future. Furthermore, six national labs are collaborating on the *Puerto Rico Grid Resilience and Transition to 100% Renewable Energy (PR100) Study* to ensure that funded energy recovery actions align with Puerto Rico energy policy and resilience needs, are coordinated across sectors, and align with industry best practices. Over \$12 billion in recovery and grid modernization funds are being used to enhance Puerto Rico's electrical system, including the procurement of 3,750 MW of renewable energy and 1500 MW of energy storage, enough clean



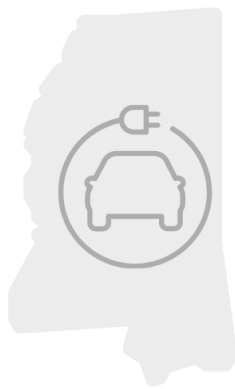
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Over two days, commissioners and a broad range of stakeholders took deep dives into issues that are top of mind for regulators, developers, investors and customers. The issues included electric vehicle infrastructure, broadband, cybersecurity, extreme weather, decarbonization, supply chains, federal policy and more. One item of interest was a \$500 million appropriation from Congress to the states through the State Energy Program that now requires the submission of a [State Energy Security Plan](#) (SESP). The SESP must address all energy resources and propose methods to strengthen the ability of the state to ensure a reliable, secure and resilient energy infrastructure. There are numerous other pots of funding that states and others can pursue: Transmission Facilitation Program (\$2.5 B), Grid Resilience Grants (\$5 B), Innovative Resilience Demonstration (\$5 B), and Smart Grid Grants (\$3 B).



The SEARUC Conference is a great venue to learn and interact with other Commissioners. SEARUC's next annual meeting will take place in Louisiana, followed by North Carolina, and then in Mississippi.

Public Comments Welcomed to Inform Mississippi's Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Deployment Plan



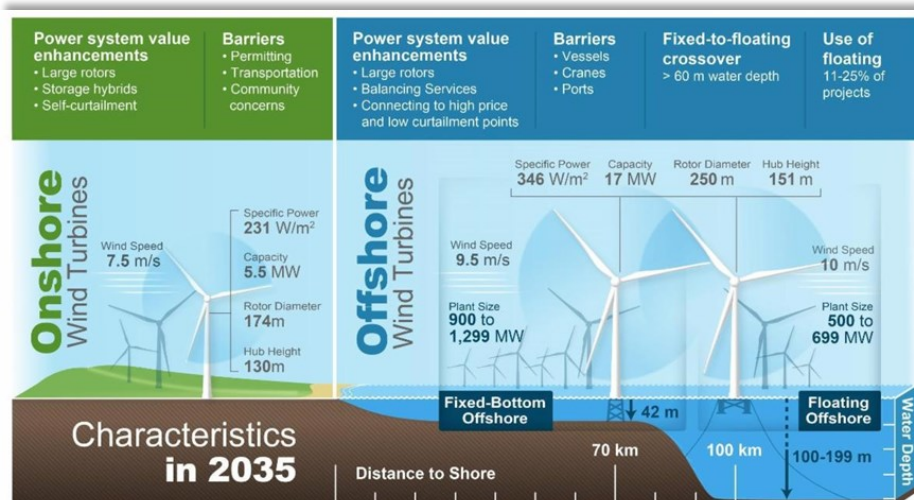
The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is developing a draft plan for the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the state. However, before MDOT submits the plan to the Federal Highway Administration by August 1, 2022, in order to receive at least \$51 million from the federal government, it seeks feedback from the public to inform components of its [Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan](#). To provide input please fill out the [public opinion survey](#) so MDOT can better understand the needs of the public.

Comments through the survey should be received by MDOT no later than July 15, 2022, to be considered by MDOT for the 2022 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan. The [notice of proposed rulemaking](#) (NPRM) for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program was announced last week. Nearly \$5 billion will be made available to the states over the next five years under the NEVI Formula Program.



Global Wind Day

Global Wind Day was recognized on June 15. In support of this day, I wanted to pass along [a new article](#) in the journal *Wind Energy* that identifies expectations about future wind turbine and plant designs in 2035 for onshore and offshore wind. A companion article by the same team [published in Nature Energy](#), found many design choices can support leveled cost of energy reductions of 27% (onshore) and 17%-35% (floating and fixed-bottom offshore) by 2035 as compared to today.



Energy Transition Guidance for Regulators

The electric distribution system in the United States is in a transitional state. It is being enhanced to become more distributed, resilient, and responsive to meet the needs of 21st century electrification. The transition is far from complete and technological advancements and evolving customer preferences will drive changes that raise complex and fundamental questions for regulators. The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity convened *A System in Transition: The Influence of Next Generation Technologies*. Highlights of the report can be download at https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/A%20system%20in%20transition_5.13.22_web.pdf.

Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ The Commission filed its [Report and Recommendation](#) on Order of the Hearing Examiner in regard to the Petition of **MS Solar 4, LLC** for a Supplemental Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing the Construction and Operation of a Portion of a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Lamar County**. The project will be predominately located in **Covington County** and will construct facilities in **Lamar County** if necessary. **MS Solar 4, LLC** will interconnect with the transmission system of **Cooperative Energy** and sell the entire electrical output generated by the Facility at wholesale into the interstate electricity market of **MISO**. **MS Solar 4, LLC** plans to enter into a Virtual Power Purchase Agreement with a company that seeks to obtain certain renewable energy benefits. The capital investment necessary to develop and construct the facility is estimated to be approximately \$90,000,000.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Notice of Compliance](#) Filing in regards to its Notice to Change Rates Pursuant to the Performance Evaluation Plan, Rate Schedule PEP-6. In addition to the Commission's Order approving the PEP-6 revenue adjustment and adopting the Stipulation entered into between the **Public Utilities Staff** and **Mississippi Power Company**, the Commission further ordered that the Company shall file compliance tariffs consistent with the Stipulation within five (5) days of the effective date of the Order, and such compliance tariffs shall become the lawful rates of **Mississippi Power Company's** effective with the first billing cycle of July 2022. Pursuant to the Commission's order and consistent with the Stipulation, **Mississippi Power Company** filed the ordered compliance tariffs.



CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



NC Commissioners Floyd McKissick, Kimberly Duffley and TaNola Brown-Bland at SEARUC in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

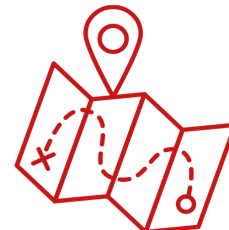


We were back on the Mississippi Gulf coast this week. George attended the 2022 Mississippi Association of Supervisors 93rd Annual Convention!

GA Commissioners Fitz Johnson, Tricia Pridemore and Jason Shaw at SEARUC in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



**The MPSC
 Central
 District is
 on the road these
 next few weeks!**



Construction began on the massive Spanish fort Castillo San Felipe del Morro in 1539 and the facility was used by Spain for over 300 years. Today, this National Historic Site is home to iguanas rather than military troops.

Charlotte, NC: Meeting of the Southeast Climate and Energy Network

Detroit, MI: 2022 EV Exchange Forum

Idaho Falls, ID: NARUC Nuclear Energy Partnership site visit to Idaho National Lab

Biloxi, MS: Mississippi Municipal League 2022 Annual Conference and Exhibition



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **45** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	29
Telecommunications	10
Water/Sewer	3
Natural Gas	3

Last week, the Central District received a total of **183** 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.