

July 21, 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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NARUC Summer Policy Summit: A Focus on Transformation and Reliability

If you have not heard much from me lately via social media, email or phone, that is because I have been in San Diego, California, for the 2022 National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Summer Policy Summit. Nearly 1,100 attendees comprised of state and federal utility regulators, industry representatives, technology developers, consumer advocates and others came together for the first non-virtual, non-hybrid, in-person large-scale event since February 2020.



**Commissioner Bailey with NARUC
President Judith Jagdmann and
NARUC Exec. Dir. Greg White**

I started the Policy Summit by participating in a Black Sky Workshop per my being a member of the Committee on Critical Infrastructure. A Black Sky Event (BSE) is more severe in scope than other major outages. While there only a few examples of BSEs, the continued threat of extreme weather events and the rise in cyber capabilities require state Public Utility Commissions (PSCs) and other state energy officials to continually analyze their role in pre-event planning and preparedness, BSE response, and system restoration. A guidebook supporting PSCs will soon be made available.

Day 2 was the official kick-off with sessions focusing on the rapid and fundamental transformation of the electric grid and how regulators must respond to preserve reliability and resource adequacy and continually assess the evolving generation resource mix. The variability of renewables, retirement of legacy fossil fuel, natural gas availability, an influx of distributed energy resources and energy storage, and a grid increasingly subject to extreme weather are among the many issues facing those responsible for the reliable delivery of electricity.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues, our session explored the role of nuclear in new markets (hydrogen, cryptocurrency, etc.) and the growing interest in advanced nuclear systems and small modular reactors (SMRs). I then met with representatives of the investment and finance community to discuss my thoughts on fuels costs, the Entergy settlement, our role in MISO, alternative energy resources, and more. I also sat down with representatives of the Regulatory Assistance Project and participated in the regional meeting of the Southeast Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) to review our recent annual meeting and discuss matters of regional importance.

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Day 3 was another busy day beginning with the release of the new report, "[*The Customer-Centered Clean Energy Transition*](#)" from the Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF). The result of a yearlong dialogue among state utility regulators, consumer advocates, and electric companies, the new report is devoted to exploring issues related to a customer-centered transition to cleaner energy while maintaining reliable and resilient electric service at just and reasonable rates. The report is intended to serve as a foundation for additional state-level dialogue and collaboration on the impacts of the ongoing energy transition.



*Commissioner Bailey with Arkansas
PSC Chairman Ted Thomas*



*CCIF Exec. Dir. Katrina McMurrian (and
former FL PSC Commissioner) and
Commissioner Bailey*

Per my role on the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment, we heard from several panels throughout the day on matters such as possible constraints in the bulk power system, how load growth triggers those constraints, and how that leads to increased marginal costs. We heard from U.S. Dept. of Energy officials on the status of tariffs on solar panel imports and use of the Defense Production Act to expand domestic manufacturing of clean energy technologies and other grid infrastructure components. Finally, we heard from grid operators on how they may value capacity from demand side management (DSM), demand response, wind, solar and storage resources so that utilities know what is truly available during an extreme weather or a high demand event.

I also had the privilege to sit down with Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner James Danly (picture to right) to discuss the various Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemakings (ANOPR) the FERC has put forth for public comment and other actions taken and being considered by the FERC and how the MPSC can effectively participate and lend its voice.



I also took a trip around the block on a fully electric school bus. This particular bus by LION Manufacturing has full heat and air conditioning and is extremely quiet, smooth and no diesel exhaust fumes! The bus is easy to maintain, operate and has a 100-mile range. Got my bag ready for the first day of school!



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As the sun set on the NARUC Summer Policy Summit, I also had the opportunity to visit with Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) CEO John Bear (photo below right). MISO is the grid operator for the areas served by Entergy Mississippi and Cooperative Energy. As a board member of the Organization of MISO States (OMS), it is key to understand the functions and policies of MISO and how state regulators and MISO can collaborate to solve challenges around

resource adequacy, transmission planning, project cost allocation, interregional transfers, and more.

While it was a fast-paced Summit, I was able to enjoy an evening cruise around San Diego Bay. The area is home to North Island Naval Air Station, Naval Base San Diego, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Coast Guard Southwestern Sector and more. At least four aircraft carriers were in port at the time and naval ships of every type were docked as far as the eye could see. The bay is active with large container ships and recreational boaters. However, the crown jewel is the Aircraft Carrier USS Midway Museum and various tall-mast ships that the public can tour. I hope you enjoy the photos from our own "three-hour tour."





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National Energy News and Reports

Report: US Energy Sector Lags on Cyber Preparedness

According to a new report, “[*Securing the Energy Transition Against Cyber Threats*](#)” from the Atlantic Council, the U.S. grid is increasingly distributed, increasingly digital and, therefore, increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks. Even as the war in Ukraine has raised concerns about Russia deploying a range of cyber disruptions to energy systems in the U.S. and Europe, “the public and private sectors lack a unified strategic framework to secure energy infrastructure against cyber threats.” While there are cyber protection standards for generation and transmission infrastructure of the bulk power system, distribution systems are not generally covered under federal standards. The report presents solutions the public and private sector can take to keep the grid secure.

Fossil Fuels Accounted for 79% of U.S. Energy Consumption in 2021

Fossil fuels—petroleum, natural gas, and coal—accounted for 79% of the 97 quadrillion British thermal units (quads) of primary energy consumption in the United States during 2021. About 21% of U.S. primary energy consumption in 2021 came from fuel sources other than fossil fuels, such as renewables and nuclear. Furthermore, energy consumption increased by 4 quads in 2021 (the largest annual increase on record). The increase followed a 7-quad energy consumption decrease in 2020 (the largest annual decrease on record). Consumption of renewable energy increased slightly from 11.5 quads in 2020 to a record of 12.2 quads in 2021. [Learn more.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?: So, what is a “quad” of energy? The quad is a unit of energy defined as 1 quadrillion (10^{15} or 1,000,000,000,000,000) British thermal units (BTUs). The quad is a convenient unit for describing large energy resources. One quad is equal to 293 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, the energy of 183 million barrels of petroleum, 38.5 million tons of coal, or 980 billion cubic feet of natural gas.



Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Submittal of Requested Exhibit](#) in regard to its Notice to Implement Changes to the Formula Rate Plan. **Entergy Mississippi** is submitting additional evidence regarding what the Company did to inform and educate customers about third-party payment assistance resources offered during the COVID19 pandemic
- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its Rule 7.103 [Construction Notice](#) for a System Integrity project that will replace approximately three miles of the 1930's-era 6" steel transmission line serving **Yazoo City**.
- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** also filed its Rule 7.103 [Construction Notice](#), and other information pertaining to two projects, for replacement of mains and services around University Boulevard in **Jackson**. These system integrity projects are needed to replace over 22,000 feet of main and approximately 122 steel services due to maintenance issues caused by inadequate coating and legacy joining practices.
- ✎ **Mississippi River Gas, LLC** and **City of Port Gibson** filed their [Joint Petition](#) for Partial Transfer and Cancellation of Area. **City of Port Gibson** agrees to operate the **Port Gibson** System to serve the customers of the area of the Certificate to be conveyed. It is important to note that this Petition has special nature, which involves a municipal entity not subject to **Commission** jurisdiction (except as to certain specific narrowly tailored matters).
- ✎ **CenturyLink Communications, LLC d/b/a Lumen Technologies Inc.** filed its [Tariff Notice](#) with no further revisions.
- ✎ The following entities filed Tariff Revisions:
 - **Level 3 Communications, LLC** filed its [Tariff No. 3 Revisions](#).
 - **Level 3 Telecom of Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Tariff No. 13 Revisions](#).
 - **TelCove Operations, LLC** filed its [Tariff No. 2 Revisions](#).

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



Last week, I enjoyed a tour of the Taylor Power Systems at their facility in Clinton. Taylor Power Systems is producing some of the finest power generating and back-up power resources for a variety of needs and applications. Additionally, TPS is a participant in Atmos Energy's rebate program, which brings generators to residents and businesses. I look forward to another visit as new products are introduced. Thanks to Brock Williamson, Steve Duke, David DeWitt and Zach Taylor for the invitation! Check out a few more photos on the next page.

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AUGUST

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The MPSC's August Regular Docket Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, August 2. The meeting is open to the public and will be streamed online.



See y'all at the fair!

See y'all at the Neshoba County Fair next week! I'll be kicking off the Thursday morning speeches at 9 a.m.! Looking forward to seeing good friends and enjoying the fair food and entertainment!



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

Electric Companies	24
Telecommunications	6
Water/Sewer	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **107** 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.