

August 3, 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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## *All of a Sudden, Energy Experts are in Abundance!*

A few weeks ago, the Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) voted to approve amendments and revisions to the former Net Metering and Interconnection Rules, now referred to as the "Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule (MDGIR)" and the "Mississippi Net Renewable Generation Rule (MsNRG)."

Although some greatly uninformed individuals seem to think that these rules are a recent creation of the MPSC, this program has been the subject of study and consideration since January 2011 when the then-Commission opened a docket to investigate the implementation of net metering and interconnection standards for Mississippi. In December 2015, the Commission members at the time found that net metering and interconnection standards "provides potential economic and ecological benefits to both participating and nonparticipating consumers, and to the State of Mississippi as a whole."

Since January 2021, the current Commission has been reviewing comments, testimony and other data as required per a "Reopener Provision" included in the 2015 Final Rule that requires the MPSC to revise or modify the rules as necessary. Over the past 18 months, the Commission considered various proposals to help promote economic development and address other key policy interests, as per legislative directives.

I believe the original framework lacked certain components needed to help level the playing field for all customer income levels and facilitate greater customer participation. The revised rules adopted a month ago build on the original premise that such a program is needed to support consumers' right to self-supply electricity to save on energy costs as balanced by the need and right to connect to the grid. Furthermore, the revised rules increase customer choice, provide a sense of competition, and introduce innovative products into a market nearly completely dominated by monopoly corporations.

Since the MDGIR and MsNRG rules were adopted, a cadre of so-called "experts" have suddenly appeared on the scene to offer up their extensive "knowledge" and opinion on the revised rules and on the MPSC itself. However, every time these "spokespersons" of certain think tanks, online blogs, policy hubs, state agencies, etc. put forth their dribble, I am amazed (I really shouldn't be) at the extensive lack of fundamental understanding of how the MPSC functions, how energy markets function, the role of the Public Utilities Staff, how rates are designed, how generation resources are evaluated, how expenses are recovered, and so much more. You can't be a "Johnny come lately" and expect to grasp an immediate understanding of a lot of these issues. And just because you may have slept at a Holiday Inn Express last night, you are no energy expert.



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Despite their calling out of me and/or the MPSC, despite their dismissal of reality, and despite their inability to research, obtain and utilize facts, not a single one of these people took the time to reach out to me or the MPSC or took the time to fully understand the mechanisms of the revised rules or how regulated energy markets – such as that of Mississippi – generally operate. I guess I should not be surprised; facts don't fit their narrative.

These are the same people that wish to stifle innovation, deny customer choice, and eliminate any sense of competition among generation resources. Despite their rhetoric, these people want to keep you under the thumb of and subject to the price dictates of the multi-billion-dollar monopoly utility corporations. They offer no solutions, only critiques. They probably don't even like newborn puppies.

The revised MDGIR and MsNRG rules have the potential to increase economic activity and job growth. Distributed generation also has the potential put downward pressure on rates and extend benefits to all customers – even non-participants. Distributed generation can also provide benefits through avoided generation fuel costs, reduced transmission and distribution line loss, avoided large-scale investments risks, and reduced regulatory compliance costs.

The doubters want the MPSC to reverse course, turn its back on Mississippians, withdraw its support of distributed generation development, and maintain the status quo. If that is the case, then we might as well cease all expansion of water and wastewater infrastructure, cease expansion of natural gas infrastructure to rural areas and industrial parks, and cease deployment of broadband internet to unserved and underserved areas of Mississippi. See how all that goes over with the general populace.

While I am dismayed by the level and number of errors, inaccuracies and mischaracterizations in the articles and social media posts that have been produced, I am appalled that there appears to be no effort or attempt to even try to become better educated on and informed of these issues. I will be more than happy to help provide information, or even connect folks to our more than capable staff members. Information is what we do. This is the 128<sup>th</sup> weekly newsletter produced since early 2020 and my office takes pride in providing a good, informative product. I wish others would as well.

## Entergy Implodes Remainder of Rex Brown Power Plant

If you heard a loud explosion in Jackson last Thursday, you heard the controlled demolition of the remainder of the retired [Rex Brown Steam Electric Station](#) on Northside Drive. The remaining structures were quickly brought down by strategically placed explosives. Rex Brown provided electricity to the central Mississippi area for 71 years before it was retired from service in 2019. Check out the [video](#) of the demolition.





## Highlights from the August 2, 2022, Docket Meeting

*The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on August 2, 2022, at 10:00 am CT to consider the following [agenda](#) items:*

- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving the Notice of Intent of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** to revise its Ad Valorem Tax Adjustment Rider Schedule (ATA-3). The revised ATA-3 factor will be applied to bills rendered on and after August 30, 2022. The new factor is 3.5557%, an increase from the prior year's factor of 3.3682% and results in an increase of \$0.22 on an average residential bill using 1,000 kWh. The increase in the ATA-3 rate factor results from a projected increase in Ad Valorem taxes collected through the ATA-3 Rider (\$9.8 million) offset by a decrease in the true-up of the prior year under-recovery of ad valorem taxes.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving the Notice of **CenterPoint Energy Mississippi Gas** to implement certain changes to its Rate Regulation Adjustment Rider (RRA Rider). CenterPoint submitted to **the Commission** on April 29, 2022 the 2021 Evaluation Filing. **The Public Utilities Staff** reviewed the Evaluation Filing and found that adjustments were appropriate per the data contained in the 2021 Evaluation filing. Pursuant to discussions between **CenterPoint** and the **Staff** about the 2021 Evaluation Filing, **CenterPoint** and the **Staff** have entered into a Joint Stipulation. **The Staff** made adjustments that will provide approximately \$750,000 in savings to customers. **Staff's** proposed adjustments reduce **CenterPoint's** requested rate relief from \$2,648,320 to \$1,880,789. Based on the current rate of \$43.61 for an average residential customer using 40 CCF per month, the average residential customer will see a \$2.10 increase in rates as opposed to the \$2.96 increase proposed by **CenterPoint**, which is an \$0.86 savings for customers. The major driver of the rate increase is Plant in Service and materials and supplies.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving the Application of **Belzoni Cable** for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to provide competitive telecommunication service within Mississippi. On January 6, 2021, **Belzoni Cable** filed its application for ETC designation based on the conditional allocation of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I high-cost support for the census blocks located in **Humphreys** and **Sharkey Counties**, and now **Belzoni Cable** filed its present Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide facilities based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout the State. **Belzoni Cable, LLC** will also provide unregulated services such as gigabit speed broadband internet and VoIP to businesses, residences, and municipal entities.
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued Orders Implementing Recommendations of Independent Fuel Auditors. Liberty Consulting Group and Horne LLP carried out audits related to the procurement and use of fuel and electricity and associated costs for [Entergy Mississippi, LLC](#). London Economics, LLC and Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC performed audits related to the procurement and use of fuel and electricity and associated costs for [Mississippi Power Company](#). Fuel audits are performed and evaluated as required by MISS. CODE ANN. § 77-3-42.





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- ☑ **The Commission** issued Orders designating a procedural officer as the **Commission's** representative and fully empowering him to take such action as deemed necessary to expedite the business of this **Commission** and to avoid delay and unnecessary expense in the dockets related to **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC's** State-Wide Rate Cases for [Water](#) and [Wastewater](#) Services in Its Certificated Areas in the state. Such authority includes, but is not limited to, facilitating agreements, identifying issues and needs, establishing procedural mechanisms, such as scheduling orders, and convening and chairing prehearing conferences.
- ☑ **The Commission** took action authorizing the Executive Secretary to enter into a professional contract with United Professionals Company for consulting services related to **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC's** State-Wide Rate Case for Water and Wastewater disposal service.
- ☑ **The Commission** also took action authorizing the Executive Secretary to enter into a professional contract with Donna Chandler for consulting services related to telecommunications issues.
- ☑ **The Commission** took action regarding the next Docket Meeting by moving the Docket date to September 15, 2022, at 10:00 am.

## Last Week at the MPSC

- 📁 **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC** filed its Notice of Intent to Establish State-Wide Rates for [Water](#) Service and [Wastewater](#) Service in its Certificated Areas. **Great River** currently provides water service to approximately 2,158 water connections and wastewater service to approximately 8,190 sewer connections in the following 16 Mississippi counties: **Adams, DeSoto, Forrest, Harrison, Hinds, Lafayette, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lee, Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Panola, Tate, Tishomingo, Warren, and Yalobusha**. This rate filing is designed to achieve two primary objectives. First, **Great River** wants to adjust rates to a level that allows it to recover reasonable operating costs and provides a fair return on the investments made to continue and improve service to customers. Second, **Great River** seeks to unify the terms of service and consolidate rates statewide. The specific change in rates is applicable to both residential and commercial customers. The Commission issued Suspension Orders to Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC in regard to its Notice of Intent to Establish State-Wide Rates for Service in Its Certificated Area for [Water](#) and [Wastewater](#) in the state in order to conduct a thorough review of the filings.
- 📁 **Fable Solar, LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing Construction, Ownership, and Operation of an approximately [109.20 MWDC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility](#) in **Stone County**. The facility is expected to be located on a total of approximately 1,000 acres once constructed. The energy offtake of the Facility is still yet to be determined but could be sold to one or more Mississippi electric utilities for resale. The initial investment in Mississippi necessary to develop and construct the facility will be approximately Eighty Million Dollars (\$80,000,000).
- 📁 **Sunflower Solar, LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing Construction, Ownership, and Operation of an approximately [112 MWDC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility](#) in **George County**. The facility is expected to be located on a total of approximately 1,000 acres once constructed. The energy offtake of the facility is still yet to be determined but could be sold to one or more Mississippi electric utilities for resale. The initial investment in Mississippi necessary to develop and construct the Facility will be approximately Eighty Million Dollars (\$80,000,000).



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- ✉ At the conclusion of the Public Hearing held on July 14, 2022, in regard to the Investigation Into Acts Done or Omitted to be Done by **L & F Water Association** arising from the adequacy of service provided by **L & F Water Association**, the Central District Commissioner issued a [Post Hearing Order](#) outlining certain actions, requirements and conditions to be performed by **L & F Water Association**.
- ✉ **The Public Utilities Staff** prepared and filed the Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment Audit Reports for the period April 1, 2022, through April 30, 2022: [Atmos Energy](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire Mississippi Inc.](#)
- ✉ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** made its [Compliance Filing](#) to provide the **Commission** with proposed Interim Capacity Rate Adjustments for recovery of the updated first-year non-fuel revenue requirement for the Sunflower Solar Facility in **Sunflower County**. The rate base impact is expected to be \$8.78 million, which is approximately \$356,000 less than the \$9.1 million originally estimated at the time the **Commission** approved **Entergy Mississippi, LLC**'s Certificate for the Sunflower Solar Facility. Entergy Mississippi has also executed a tax equity partnership under MS Sunflower Project Company LLC that has fully acquired the Sunflower Solar Facility. Factoring in the benefits of the tax equity partnership agreement, it is estimated that a typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month will see an increase in rates of approximately \$0.56 per month through Schedule FRP-7 in the first year of the Facility's operation. This is \$0.20 lower than the bill impact originally estimated by **Entergy Mississippi LLC**. Further, when you remove the temporary effects of the percentage of base rate rider schedules (i.e., Schedules MISO, PMR, MSE and UPC), a residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month would see a net increase in rates of approximately \$0.47 per month. **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** requests that the proposed Interim Capacity Rate Adjustments be implemented for bills rendered on and after November 30, 2022.
- ✉ **Value-Added Communications Inc.** filed its [Petition](#) to Cancel its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Tariff. The Company no longer has any customers in Mississippi and no longer needs its Certificate. As such, the Commission being fully apprised and having reviewed the record before it, and upon recommendation of the **Public Utilities Staff**, the **Commission** issued an [Order](#) granting **Value-Added Communications Inc.**'s Petition.
- ✉ **Public Communications Services, Inc.** [Petition](#) to Cancel the Company's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and any associated tariffs on file with the **Commission** because the Company does not provide any services in Mississippi at this time. As such, the Commission being fully apprised and having reviewed the record before it, and upon recommendation of the **Public Utilities Staff**, the **Commission** issued an [Order](#) granting **Public Communications Services, Inc.**'s Petition.
- ✉ **Neutral Tandem-Mississippi, LLC** filed its Mississippi PSC NO. 2 [Access Tariff Revision](#). This filing was made to revise certain switched access rates in compliance with the requirements of the Report and Order, FCC 20-143, on 8YY Access Charge Reform issued by the Federal Communications Commission in WC Docket No. 18-156. The Company also requests an effective date of August 26, 2022, for this filing.
- ✉ **Onvoy, LLC** also filed its Mississippi Tariff No. 2 [Access Tariff Revision](#), which was also made to revise certain switched access rates in compliance with the requirements of the Report and Order, FCC 20-143, on 8YY Access Charge Reform issued by the Federal Communications Commission in WC Docket No. 18-156. **Onvoy, LLC** requests an effective date of August 26, 2022, for this filing.





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- ✉ **Cable One VOIP LLC** filed its [Request](#) to Withdraw Application for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to Receive Federal Lifeline Support. The Company further requests that the Commission retire their application to the file without prejudice of the Company re-filing the application at a later time.
- ✉ **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its 2022 [Energy Delivery Plan](#). The 2022 Plan references **Atmos Energy's** System Integrity program, which is the primary, on-going initiative of **Atmos Energy** to modernize its infrastructure for the efficient, safe, and reliable delivery of natural gas. The Plan discusses additional enabling technologies being considered by **Atmos Energy** including the introduction of the SmartChoice Carbon Offset Program, as well as the Company's support of a Zero Net Energy demonstration home. The Plan also contains information on **Atmos Energy's** Innovations Programs introduced last year which provide incentives for customers installing new combined heat and power system(s), natural gas-powered fuel cell technology, and/or natural gas-powered backup generators. The 2022 Plan also describes **Atmos Energy's** customer outreach programs, as well as a description of **Atmos Energy's** 2022 Energy Efficiency Offerings and a recap of the performance its 2021 Energy Efficiency Offerings.
- ✉ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [2022 Regulatory Tax Recovery \(RTR\) Clause Assessments filing](#). On or around July 1, 2022, **Mississippi Power Company** received from the Mississippi Department of Revenue its 2021 Public Utility Regulatory Tax assessment of \$1,683,211. Based upon this assessment, the Regulatory Tax Recovery Clause assessments to be applied to all electric service rate schedules, except for lighting service rate schedules, are as follows: Residential = \$0.29 per month; Small Commercial/Industrial = \$1.14 per month; Large Commercial/Industrial = \$379.27 per month.

**CENTRAL  
DISTRICT  
SNAPS**



*Last Saturday, City of Brandon leaders helped cut the ribbon on Tesla's first Delivery and Service Center in Mississippi. Nestled between Hwy 80 and I-20 near Crossgates Blvd., this will be one of the first such Centers in the mid-South and will serve as a model for future customer engagement by the company. The vehicles are impressive and the facility boasts a slew of Tesla chargers. Southern Pine Electric serves the facility.*





FROM THE DESK OF  
**COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY**  
 CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



*I enjoyed being back at the Neshoba County Fair last week! I was honored to kick off Thursday morning's line-up of political speeches and I thank the Fair planners for the work they put into this annual event. The Fair always presents opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones. It is Mississippi's Giant Houseparty for a reason! As always, we appreciate SuperTalk Mississippi for having us after my speech. Looking forward to next year!*



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **42** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	36
Telecommunications	6

Last week, the Central District received a total of **119** 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.*