

August 18, 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



MPSC No Call Program
Introduces New
Software Platform

The Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) is pleased to announce the rollout of its new and improved No Call Program customer and solicitor portal. Not only does the new portal provide customers with an easier way to report and submit a complaint against an unwanted telemarketing call, but the site also provides legitimate telemarketers a means to submit their Telephonic Solicitor Registration Application, annual business fee, and other information and affidavits.

The Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act directed the MPSC to promulgate regulations and to compile and maintain a "No Call List." The list consists of telephone numbers of Mississippi residential, cellular, and business telephone subscribers who seek to eliminate unwanted telephone solicitations and scam calls. The Caller ID Anti-Spoofing Act also provides a tool for the MPSC to fight fraudulent and misleading "spoofing" of the telephone number that appears on caller ID when one receives an incoming call. These laws are meant to help prohibit telemarketers from contacting Mississippi businesses and consumers by telephone or text message should their telephone number(s) appear on the "No Call List." If you have not registered your number to the "No Call List," you can do so via the [Residential Registration](#) or [Business Registration](#) portals or over the telephone (1-866-622-5567).

However, we all know that unscrupulous telemarketers and scammers ignore the "No Call List" on a daily basis. Mississippi residential, cellular, and business telephone customers who continue to receive unwanted telemarketing or fraudulent scam calls or text messages may file a complaint with the MPSC in [writing](#), using the [MPSC No Call App](#), or via the [Subscriber Complaint](#) portal. When a complaint is filed on-line or via the App, our No Call Specialists receive it immediately to begin the investigation. The MPSC is also working closely with the Attorney General's office to identify the scammers and attempt to stop them.

Scammers can use the internet and certain telecommunication providers to make calls from all over the world and they don't care if you're on the "No Call List." That is why it is imperative that you don't answer numbers you don't recognize or that you utilize a call-blocking or call-labeling technology. Over 39.5 million robocalls were attempted or made to Mississippi customers in July 2022. You must remain vigilant to protect yourself from being scammed!



Governor Reeves and the MPSC Central District Recognize Clean Power Week

August 15-19, 2022, is American Clean Power Week! American Clean Power Week (ACPW) is the nationwide celebration of clean energy and the good-paying jobs the industry creates for Americans across all 50 states. Its purpose is to showcase the clean energy technologies that are powering homes and businesses, creating local jobs, investing in communities, and reducing costs for consumers.

Governor Tate Reeves joined other state leaders across the nation by issuing a proclamation recognizing the role of clean energy in our state and national economy, clean energy's contribution to a more diversified energy generation portfolio, and the jobs and innovation being driven by investments in domestically produced clean power.



In 2021, renewables grew 4.1% year-on-year, rising to over 21% of total power generation. The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects that share to increase to 22% in 2022 and to 24% in 2023 as more clean energy generating capacity comes online. Furthermore, nearly every state saw positive job growth in 2022 from the expanding clean energy economy, coupled with recovery from job losses during the COVID-19 pandemic. While clean energy continues to [spread economic opportunity](#), the share of generation from clean energy is predicted to remain below the national average across much of the Southeast U.S. for the foreseeable future.

Inflation Reduction Act Signed into Law




The [Inflation Reduction Act](#) represents the most significant investment (\$369 billion) in climate and clean energy in U.S. history, both in terms of funding and expected emissions reductions. However, the bill also includes health care provisions, tax increase provisions and IRS enforcement provisions.

The bill includes the following [energy-related provisions](#):

- *Consumer incentives to buy energy efficient and electric appliances, electric vehicles, and rooftop-solar, and invest in home energy efficiency.*
- *Manufacturing incentives to on-shore clean energy manufacturing in the U.S. across the full supply chain of clean energy and transportation technologies.*
- *Incentives to bolster technologies like nuclear, carbon capture, hydrogen, renewables and energy storage.*
- *Investments in clean energy development and climate-smart agriculture practices in rural communities.*



Last Week at the MPSC

-  **Rankin County** filed a [Notice of Appeal](#) to the Supreme Court of Mississippi in regards to the [Order](#) the **Commission** entered at the July 12, 2022 Docket Meeting approving the Joint Stipulation between **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** and the **Public Utilities Staff** to implement revisions to the Formula Rate Plan Schedule FRP-7.
-  **Mississippi Power Company** filed a [Motion to Rescind](#) or, alternatively, Rehearing of the **Commission's** [Final Order](#) amending the Net Metering and Interconnection Rules (Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection and Net Renewable Generation Rules) on July 12, 2022. **Mississippi Power Company** also filed an accompanying [Notice of Stay](#) in regard to the Final Order Amending Rules and the Mississippi Net Renewable Generation Rule. In its Motion, **Mississippi Power Company** claims the **Commission's** Final Order Amending Rules asserts certain authorities that it lacks in order to justify solar self-supply and adoption of proven, clean energy generation technologies. **Mississippi Power Company** questions the **Commission's** legislatively granted broad authority to establish reasonable rules and a price for energy from renewable distributed generation facilities above a utility's avoided cost or to otherwise require rebates that incentivize adoption of technologies that save consumers energy and money. **Mississippi Power Company** asserts that the initial Net Metering Rules approved by the **Commission** in 2015 contained far reaching incentives and that in offering enhanced rebates and setting customer-preferred pricing in the revised Rules, the **Commission** errs in three primary respects. **Mississippi Power Company** alleges: 1) the **Commission** has no jurisdiction over self-supply and has grounded its Rule in power it does not possess; 2) the **Commission's** ratemaking power is insufficient to authorize the **Commission's** actions in this docket and that the **Commission** wrongly rooted its legal authority to establish the present rules in the fact that net metering policy governs the transfer of electricity from the customer to the utility and that no jurisdiction over this transaction exists under state law; 3) the **Commission** disregarded the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act by not conducting an economic impact study.
-  **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** also filed a [Motion for Rehearing](#) and stay of the **Commission's** [Final Order](#) Amending Rules issued in the Order Establishing Docket to Review the Efficacy and Fairness of the Net Metering and Interconnection Rules (Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection and Net Renewable Generation Rules). **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** believes the **Commission** achieved an appropriate balance in 2015 when it initially implemented rules for net metering, however now feels the Final Order and Amended Rules: 1) is not based on evidence that justifies the opportunity to advance economic development and distributed generation resources for **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** 's customers; 2) raise policy issues surrounding the costs borne by and benefits enjoyed by customers; and 3) was the first opportunity **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** had to consider and quantify the benefits of the Amended Rules as adopted. **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** also claims that the **Commission's** adoption of the Amended Rules exceeds the jurisdiction and statutory authority of the **Commission** because the **Commission** has no jurisdiction to regulate self-suppliers of electricity, to require specific energy procurement by utilities, or to allow customers to distribute electricity across the distribution system for the benefit of all customers. **Entergy Mississippi LLC** alleges this results in rate inequities for those customers who do sign up for the Net Renewable Generation program.



Continued...

Entergy Mississippi LLC declares the Rule fails to comply with the requirements of the Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law and the potential impact of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 should also be considered before the **Commission** finalizes any rule regarding net metering.

- 📁 The **Commission** is currently reviewing the above referenced Motions submitted by **Mississippi Power Company** and **Entergy Mississippi LLC**.

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



Congressman Michael Guest shared his work with and admiration for the law enforcement community at Wednesday's Greater Jackson Law Enforcement Officers luncheon at MLEOTA.

UTILITY SCAM

*The latest twist on utility scams is asking you to pay in Bitcoin or another type of cryptocurrency. The scam goes like this: you get a call or text from someone pretending to be your utility company. The caller or text says you owe money (which is a lie). The scammers then send you a text—sometimes including your utility company's logo—with a QR code and tell you to scan it at a Bitcoin ATM to make a payment or your service will be disconnected. **Stop!***

No utility company will text you about a shut-off, and no utility company will demand payment in cryptocurrency. Those are scams. And before it shuts off service, all real utility companies will notify you in writing and offer a repayment plan. Learn more: https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2022/08/only-scammers-demand-utility-payments-cryptocurrency?utm_source=govdelivery



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **36** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	30
Telecommunications	4
Water/Sewer	1
Natural Gas	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **257** 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.