

August 31, 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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## September is National Preparedness Month

Mississippi is no stranger to extreme weather events and other natural disasters. Central Mississippians are currently dealing with flood waters along the Pearl River basin. The impacts of the 2021 Winter Storm Uri are still fresh on the minds of many. During that event, we experienced targeted rolling blackouts and numerous water systems suffered prolonged outages. Tornadoes seem to be a regular occurrence in the spring as the seasons change. And the Mississippi Coast is always susceptible to hurricanes.

However, there are other disaster and emergencies that we may not always think about. These include an avalanche (maybe at Woodall Mountain??), bioterrorist attack, space weather, tsunamis and volcano eruption. These are not likely to be experienced in Mississippi, but as you travel around the nation and the world, these events could be a realistic threat depending on where you are.

There are also other disasters and hazards that are very much a threat, but perhaps we have been lulled into a state of complacency due to the infrequent nature of such. These include earthquakes, house fire, nuclear radiation release and extreme drought. Furthermore, there are more recent emergencies, hazards and life-threatening events that have been front and center in the media that we may not have considered just a few years ago. These threats include mass shootings in public spaces, cyberattack, global pandemic and mega-wildfires.

Disasters disrupt thousands of lives every year, leaving behind lasting effects on people and property. Do you know the hazards and risks specific to your home, property and family? How vulnerable is your home, property and family to different types of disasters and hazards? Would you be ready and able to face a disaster no matter where you are or when it occurs?

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. This campaign is committed to putting people first and reaching communities where they are. All Americans are encouraged to take the important steps to prepare for natural and human-made threats and to ensure that all our communities are ready for any emergency.

Please check out the resources provided the Federal Emergency Management Agency at [www.ready.gov/publications](http://www.ready.gov/publications) and the preparedness tools and tips at [www.mssema.org](http://www.mssema.org).

Preparedness begins with individuals and families, but a key component is for communities to come together and help one another prepare as well.





## What's Up With 2022 Hurricane Season?

The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season broke records left and right. It produced 30 named storms, the highest number in recorded history. Twelve of them made landfall in the continental United States, also a record-breaker. The 2021 Atlantic hurricane season had 21 named storms, seven hurricanes, and four major hurricanes.

Earlier this year, I reported that the 2022 hurricane season was anticipated to be the seventh consecutive year of above normal activity with predictions of up to 20 named storms, eight hurricanes and four major hurricanes. But so far, there have been just three named storms since the season officially kicked off on June 1. 2022 has had the least active start to a hurricane season in more than 30 years and nearly two whole months without a named storm forming in the Atlantic. If a storm doesn't receive a name by the weekend, it could mark a record.

Yes, it has been an unusually quiet hurricane season to date. But don't get too comfortable because the hurricane season's meteorological peak is actually in mid-September and ocean conditions are ripe for storm development. Sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic are some of the highest on record and a strong La Nina has formed. Each can provide the moisture needed fuel powerful storms.

On the flip side, several factors have been at work suppressing storm development throughout July and August. A mid-level layer of dry air across the Atlantic basin has kept atmospheric moisture low. Saharan dust blowing across the Atlantic from Africa has also impacted the ability of storms to grow. And an active Pacific storm season has captured some of the energy in the mid latitudes and made the Gulf of Mexico less ideal for storm formation.

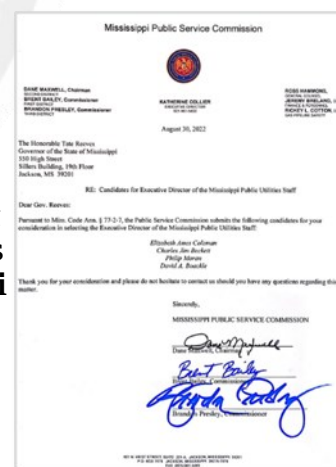
The Atlantic hurricane season officially ends on November 30 and a quiet start does not always mean a quiet finish. There are three storm areas of interest currently in the Atlantic so there is still time for a lot of activity. Don't wait until a hurricane is on your doorstep to prepare. Take proactive action now to create an emergency plan and prepare for the worst.



### Highlights from the August 30, 2022, Special Meeting

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on August 30, 2022, at 2:00 pm CT to consider the following [agenda](#) items:

- ☑ The **Commission** discussed and took action adopting a letter with a list of qualified candidates to be submitted to Governor Tate Reeves for his consideration in selecting the next Executive Director of the **Mississippi Public Utilities Staff**.
- ☑ The **Commission** considered and issued an [Order](#) Granting the Motions of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** and **Mississippi Power Company** for Rehearing and Denied any Motions to Rescind in Docket No. 2021-AD-19, Docket to Review the Efficacy and Fairness of the Net Metering and Interconnection Rules, now referred to as the "Net Renewable Generation Rules." There were amendments made to the rule to include measures that sought to increase adoption of distributed generation, enhance grid reliability and economic development, in addition to improving access to solar for low- and middle-income residents. This had been an 18-month process with the goal being to produce a well-balanced rule that creates opportunities for individuals, schools, and businesses to invest in distributed energy resources.







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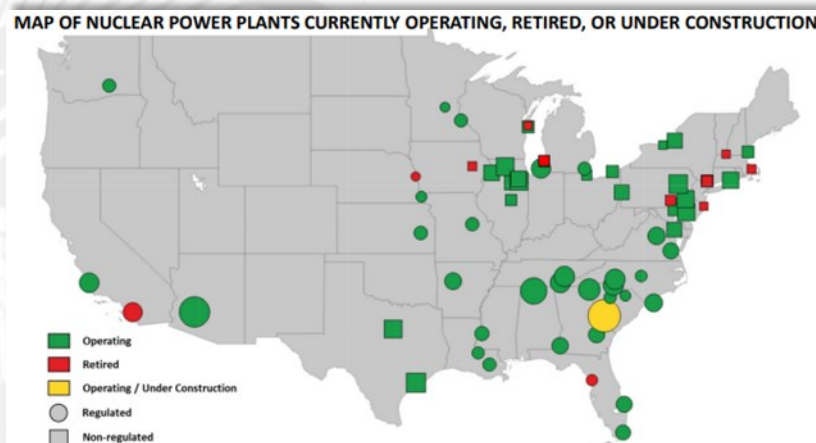
As a part of this process, the state's two electric investor-owned utilities, **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** and **Mississippi Power Company** filed Motions for Rehearing, raising several issues with the Commission's amendments to the Net Renewable Generation Rules. In an effort to further understand the issues raised by the utilities in their respective Motions for Rehearing, the Commission felt it would be proper and prudent to grant those Motions and conduct a rehearing in this proceeding with the goal to produce a meaningful rule that will achieve the Commission's desired policy outcomes.

## New Reports of Interest

### *Nuclear Energy as a Keystone Clean Energy Resource*

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners announced the release of a new white paper on the benefits of nuclear energy. [\*Nuclear Energy as a Keystone Clean Energy Resource\*](#) explores nuclear energy's role in providing carbon-free electricity and highlights key considerations for regulators to keep in mind as decarbonization efforts continue across many states and utilities. In 2021, nuclear energy accounted for approximately 20 percent of total U.S. electric generation and almost half of its carbon-free electricity.

The report includes a discussion of the reliability and cost attributes of nuclear energy as well as reviews the state of the nuclear industry and the impacts of planned retirements and identifies opportunities for decision makers to support future nuclear expansion efforts. Currently, there are 92 commercial nuclear reactors actively operating in the United States, totaling over 97,400 MW of nameplate capacity, across 28 different states.



### *Mississippi Survey of Drinking Water Systems*

The Mississippi State University Extension Service and Department of Agricultural Economics undertook a survey of public water and wastewater systems last year and the final results have just been published. 157 utilities responded to the survey. These utilities consist of various organization types (municipal, association, county district, utility authority, or privately owned) and population served sizes and were from all geographic locations of the state. The publications provide a comprehensive statistical analysis regarding the state of these types of utilities (by water/wastewater treatment methods) in Mississippi. [\*Mississippi Survey of Drinking Water Organization Characteristics and Rate Structures\*](#) also examines the organizational structure of these utilities as well as the average rate structures used by these utilities.

[\*Water Utility Compensation and Employee/Contractor Retention Survey Results 2021\*](#) examines various aspects of employees and contractors utilized by water and wastewater utilities in the state, including examining the average wage/compensation for nine different jobs. The report also examines the average employment/contractor length of service and employee benefit packages. The publications are intended to help people understand and appreciate the importance the role these utilities play in the local economy.



## Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Action Plan](#) addressing the recommendations of London Economics International, LLC (LEI) and Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC (CRI) as outlined in the annual fuel audit reports that assessed Mississippi Power Company's fuel procurement practices and financial procedures. This Action Plan addresses the following recommendations:
  - Coal Procurement: Benchmark coal costs against industry averages and review the procurement strategy to bring commodity costs closer to industry standards.
  - Fleet Operations: Include the costs of uneconomic commitment and dispatch of generation resources in any economic retirement, transmission planning, or other planning analyses.
  - Energy Trading: Continue to explore opportunities to increase economic interchanges with MISO and/or other regions through improvements to the existing Day-Ahead (DA) and Hour Ahead (HA) auction processes. This should apply to SEEM as it goes live in the third quarter of 2022.
- ✎ **Peerless Network of Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Notice](#) of Consummation, notifying the Commission that transaction identified in the joint application that was filed with the **Commission** seeking consent to the transfer of control of **Peerless Network of Mississippi, LLC** and **Airus, Inc.** from **Peerless Network Holdings, Inc.** to **Infobip Inc.** was consummated on July 25, 2022.
- ✎ The **Town of Carrollton** filed a [Notice of Intent](#) to increase new meter connection fees and returned check fees. The Carrollton Water Department contends that the costs of providing safe drinking water to its customers has greatly increased.

## CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



Commissioner Bailey pictured above with Blake Ferretti and Frank Howell (Delta Council) at Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Banquet



Commissioner Bailey pictured left with Rep. Robert Sanders, Rep. Tracey Rosebud, Sen. Sarita Simmons

**Save the Date:** The Mississippi Development Authority's Energy and Natural Resources Division will hold a public hearing on September 20 to take comments on the federal government's [Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program](#). The program aims to improve the sustainability of electric grids against disruptive events. The hearing will take place at 2:00 p.m. in the Public Service Commission Courtroom in the Woolfolk State Office Building, 501 N. West Street, Jackson 39201. Interested parties also can access the hearing online or by phone by e-mailing [energysmartms@mississippi.org](mailto:energysmartms@mississippi.org) to request a link or phone access.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **34** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	26
Telecommunications	6
Water/Sewer	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **173** 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.**