

October 27, 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

Commissioner Bailey Recognized for Football Prowess

Celebrating his recent induction into the East Central Community College Athletic Hall of Fame

By Guest Columnist: Rachael Ring Watts, MPSC Central District Director of Public Affairs

For nearly three years, my boss, your Central District Mississippi Public Service Commissioner Brent Bailey, has remained committed to drafting and delivering a “packed” weekly newsletter to keep his constituents informed of the work being done by the MPSC Central District. I am excited (and slightly nervous) to be contributing to Commissioner Bailey’s newsletter this week for the first time as a guest columnist and to share with you his most recent noteworthy honor.

We all call Commissioner Bailey a resource, a close friend and ally, a colleague, trusted associate, and most of all, a leader in his tireless efforts. Commissioner Bailey’s strong work ethic has never gone unnoticed along with his friendly manner and sense of humor, which we as a staff have the privilege to enjoy each day. However, ahead of his decades-long career in natural resource conservation and sustainable energy advocacy at the local, state and regional levels and long before he was Mississippi’s Central District Public Service Commissioner, Brent Bailey was putting in time on the football field (and in the classroom).



Bailey’s Carthage High School football coach, Pete Lucovich

While attending Carthage High School, Commissioner Bailey played several positions on the football teams, including linebacker and defensive end. But his favorite positions were center on the offensive line and long snapper for punts, field goals and extra points. In these roles, he was selected “Best Offensive Lineman” and team “Most Valuable Player” during his senior season and was also an All-District selection.

He started his college career off attending East Central Community College (ECCC) on an academic and athletic scholarship, where he was recruited primarily as a long snapper, but also started as the center in 1989 and 1990. The Commissioner played two seasons for the ECCC Warriors. While attending ECCC, he received academic honors and was named to Who’s Who in American Community Colleges. Of course, one of the Central District



With ECCC President Brent Gregory



Check out page 20 in the ECCC’s Fall 2022 *The Warrior Magazine* for a special on Commissioner Brent Bailey.

staffs’ favorite titles earned by the Commissioner was **‘MOST HANDSOME’**. We will NEVER let him forget about that one!

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His football career didn't end at ECCC. Commissioner Bailey joined the Mississippi State University (MSU) Bulldogs (1991-1993) where he eventually won the starting role as long snapper and earned a full scholarship while playing for legendary MSU coach Jackie Sherrill. He made the transition to MSU during the winter break to walk-on and go through Spring practice with the new coaching staff. While working to become the first-unit long snapper, he also played center for the scout team, imitating the offense of that week's opponent. The Commissioner also spent one season (1994) as a student assistant coach focusing on special teams development. During his time at MSU, the bulldogs played in three bowl games. Following his tenure at MSU as a student, player and assistant coach, he continued to assist with summer football camps and lead the long snapper instruction sessions during the special teams work days.



Longtime friend and ECCC's Director of External Relations, Maria McLeod, kept the Homecoming festivities on track!

Last Thursday, family, friends and staff members of Commissioner Bailey had the opportunity to gather together at East Central Community College to celebrate his induction into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame for his two seasons as center and long snapper for the ECCC Warriors and for his other athletic achievements. The day was filled with ECCC's Homecoming themed 'Back in Black and Gold' events including the Class of 1972: 50-Year Reunion and Reception, the Alumni Association Homecoming Reception, the Alumni of the Year/Athletic Hall of Fame Presentations and the Alumni Association Tailgating event. In addition to the Commissioner's induction, his mom and dad were also both recognized for being part of the ECCC Class of 1972.



The night concluded with the ECCC vs. Copiah-Lincoln football game at Bailey Stadium where honorees were recognized during pregame activities. Commissioner Bailey joined in the presentation of the game ball and performed the pregame coin toss. It was most certainly a rewarding

experience and memorable day for the Commissioner and his family, and the Commission staff was thrilled to be a part of the events and celebrations.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 'MOST HANDSOME HALL OF FAMER' COMMISSIONER BRENT





Broadband News

This week, the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi (ECM), the statewide organization and the voice of electric cooperatives in Mississippi, announced that 100,000 rural Mississippi residents have subscribed to and received reliable high-speed internet service from the 17 wholly owned broadband subsidiaries of electric cooperatives across the state. In addition to surpassing the 100,000-subscriber milestone, the 17 electric cooperative subsidiaries have collectively built nearly 25,000 miles of fiber optical cable and invested more than \$760 million for high-speed internet infrastructure since 2020. By autumn of 2022, five subsidiaries have completed fiber construction to their members. For more information and links to the 17 electric cooperatives and their high-speed internet subsidiaries, visit CoopsConnectMS.com.



Nuclear News

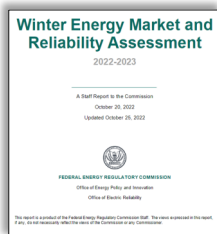
Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle's Unit 3 nuclear fuel loading is finished and start up testing will begin soon. The unit is expected to be operational by April 2023. Unit 4 could be operational by early 2024. Once operational the units can power up to half a million homes with stable, carbon-free energy. Vogtle Units 3 and 4 are the only nuclear reactors under construction in the U.S. Construction is nearly 6 years behind schedule and more than double the original budget of \$14 billion.

Solar News

Lightsource bp and the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA) have announced the completion of the 100-MW_{AC} Black Bear Solar project. This project is one of Alabama's largest solar farms and will provide electricity to AMEA's 11 municipal utilities under a 20-year power sales agreement. The project acts as a hedge against price volatility in the natural gas market while saving AMEA a minimum of \$40 million over the 20-year contract. Furthermore, the project was built using foundational piles manufactured by Mississippi-based Attala Steel!



Grid Reliability News



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has released its [Winter Energy Market and Reliability Assessment for 2022-2023](#). U.S. electricity markets are projected to have adequate amounts of generating capacity to maintain reliable operations in normal winter conditions, though grid operators in certain regions may face challenges during periods of extreme weather. Some key findings from the report include:

- Higher than average temperatures are expected for the coming winter in many regions of the country, which should translate into reduced natural gas and electric demand.
- Natural gas prices for the upcoming winter are expected to remain higher than recent years at major trading hubs across the U.S. Even though production of natural gas is forecast to increase, growth in liquefied natural gas exports will place additional pressure on natural gas prices this winter.
- Wholesale electricity markets are expected to see the addition of approximately 43 GW of generation capacity (primarily from solar and wind) and the retirement of about 15 GW of thermal resources (primarily coal) between March 2022 and February 2023.
- Nearly 6,700 line-miles of new transmission lines and transmission upgrades are expected to come online through the upcoming winter.
- Some areas may experience coal supply constraints due to ongoing rail service issues. Natural gas supplies could be constrained in New England and in California due to pipeline issues.



Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Spectrotel, Inc. and Spectrotel Ultimate Holdings, LLC** filed their joint [Petition](#) to request **Commission** consent for the transfer of control of **Spectrotel of the South, LLC** to **Spectrotel Ultimate**. **Spectrotel Ultimate** will indirectly purchase all the outstanding equity interests in **Spectrotel of the South**, thereby acquiring indirect ownership and control of **Spectrotel of the South**. As part of the transaction, **Spectrotel Ultimate** will convert from a corporation to a limited liability company prior to closing.
- ✎ **Yokena-Jeff Davis Water District, Inc.** filed its [Restated By-laws](#). **Yokena-Jeff Davis Water District, Inc.** also filed a [Certificate of Notice](#) to the adjacent water system in **Warren County**.
- ✎ **Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mississippi** filed its [Notice](#) of Addition and Withdrawal of Counsel in regard to **Airus, Inc. v. Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mississippi**.
- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** made its Purchased Gas Adjustments Rider [Compliance Filing](#). **Atmos Energy** filed its Purchased Gas Adjustments [Research and Development Surcharge Reports](#). **Atmos Energy** also filed a [Motion to Intervene](#) in the Town of Duck Hill's request to expand its certificated area for natural gas service.
- ✎ **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC**, in compliance with a request from the **Public Utilities Staff**, filed copies of the fully executed [Purchase Agreements](#) for the following Central District water/wastewater utility systems: [Affordable Homes of Vicksburg, Inc.](#) (Warren County); [Culkin Utility Company](#) (Warren County); [Enviroserve](#) (Warren County); [H & B Sewer Company](#) (Warren County); [Ironwood Utilities, LLC](#) (Warren County); [Louise K. Rawson & King Farms Development, LLC](#) (Lauderdale County); [Pecan Village, LLC](#) (Warren County); [Quality Utilities of Vicksburg](#) (Warren County); [S2 Environmental, LLC](#) (Hinds County); [T & J Utility Co., Inc.](#) (Warren County); [Utility One, LLC](#) (Warren County); [West Coast Lumber, Inc.](#) (Warren County).
- ✎ **The Commission** held a public hearing for **Harvest Gold Solar Power, LLC's** [Petition](#) for a Facilities Certificate to Construct and Operate a 99MW Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Sunflower County**. The hearing was held in Indianola, MS at the **Sunflower County** Chancery Court Room. The Project proposes to sell all electric output into the MISO market and sell the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to a company via a Virtual Power Purchase Agreement (VPPA). The estimated capital investment for the Project is \$180 million. Facility construction will create up to 200 temporary construction jobs including local electrical contractors and landscapers. During operations, there will be approximately 2 full-time equivalent jobs in a variety of functions across electrical, civil, mechanical, and vegetative management. The resulting taxable value of the Facility will create significant ad valorem tax revenue to **Sunflower County** general funds and the local school district. A [Recommended Order](#) granting the Facilities Certificate has been entered.

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



I appreciate Philip Chamblee, Executive Director of the Mississippi Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Stores Association, for inviting me to speak at their board meeting Tuesday about the challenges and opportunities their members could experience as a result of the anticipated growth of the electric vehicle (EV) market. I look forward to working with them in the future as consumers and energy/fuel providers adapt to the changes brought about by EV expansion.



On Tuesday evening, I conducted a hearing in Indianola to consider the petition of Harvest Gold Solar Power LLC to construct and operate a 99MW solar electric generating facility in Sunflower County. This is the second utility-scale project in Sunflower County. Those two projects represent over \$300 million in investments in the county.

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We enjoyed stopping by the Mississippi Association of School Administrators Fall 2022 Leadership Conference at the Sheraton in Flowood Monday afternoon. Dr. Ronnie McGehee made sure I had the opportunity to meet Jouley, the electric school bus. I also had the chance to visit with representatives from Schneider Electric, Entegry and others.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN FROM THE CENTRAL DISTRICT

This year, the Central District is getting into the Halloween spirit with our SUN and SOLAR PANELS costumes. Have a safe and fun Halloween and don't forget to POWER UP with Commissioner Brent Bailey.

Earlier this week, I met with Juliana Harless, Southeast Market Associate with Madison Energy Investments, to discuss renewable energy project opportunities aimed at assisting Mississippi commercial and industrial customers in meeting internal sustainability goals and objectives.



The MPSC's November Regular Docket Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, November 1. The meeting is open to the public and will be streamed online.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **21** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	15
Telecommunications	4
Natural Gas	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **182** 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.