

October 5, 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

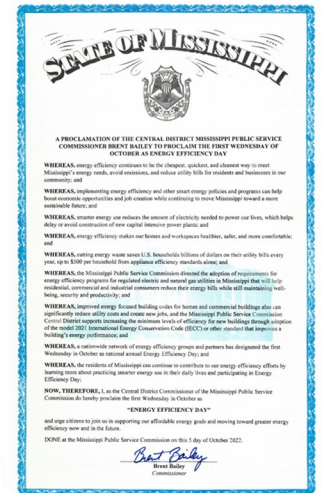
Energy Efficiency Day 2022: Save Money. Create Jobs. Conserve Resources



In recognition of the 7th annual national Energy Efficiency Day, the Central District of the Mississippi Public Service Commission is joining regional and national organizations, government agencies, businesses, utilities, universities, and individuals in promoting energy efficiency – the

cheapest, quickest way to meet our energy needs, cut utility bills, and increase economic activity. Each year, on the first Wednesday in October, many in this network of energy efficiency supporters make public declarations recognizing Energy Efficiency Day and urge citizens and businesses to take steps to increase their energy efficiency. See our [Press Release](#).

This week, I signed a [proclamation](#) declaring Wednesday, October 5, 2022, as “Energy Efficiency Day!” Since the inaugural Energy Efficiency Day in 2016, this annual awareness event has been supported by thousands of organizations, companies, government agencies and others. The goal is to share tips, tools and stories that promote the multiple benefits of energy efficiency.



It is no secret that energy costs are on the rise and energy efficiency is an important part of a diversified energy portfolio. By using energy smarter you can reduce the amount of electricity and other energy sources needed to operate your home or business while also making living spaces and workspaces healthier, safer and more comfortable. There are several simple steps you can take to reduce energy waste and save money now and in the years to come:

- Switch to LED lighting. LEDs consume up to 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs.
- Caulk and seal areas around windows, doors, receptacles, etc. to eliminate air leaks.
- Use a programmable thermostat to heat and cool efficiently.
- Maintain your heating and cooling system via a tune up and replacing the air filter regularly.
- Consider purchasing ENERGY STAR equipment, components and appliances.
- Use a power strip to turn off electronics when not in use.
- Use sunlight during the winter to help heat your home.
- Keep the sunlight out during the summer to help keep your home cool and comfortable.
- Wash clothes only with a full load and use cold water. Consider a clothesline for drying.
- Run the dishwasher only when full and skip the heated drying cycle.



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Each of the rate-regulated, investor-owned utilities in Mississippi offer energy efficiency programs for their customers. These customer-funded energy efficiency programs provide a range of services, rebates, direct installs and technical assistance to residential, commercial and industrial customers.

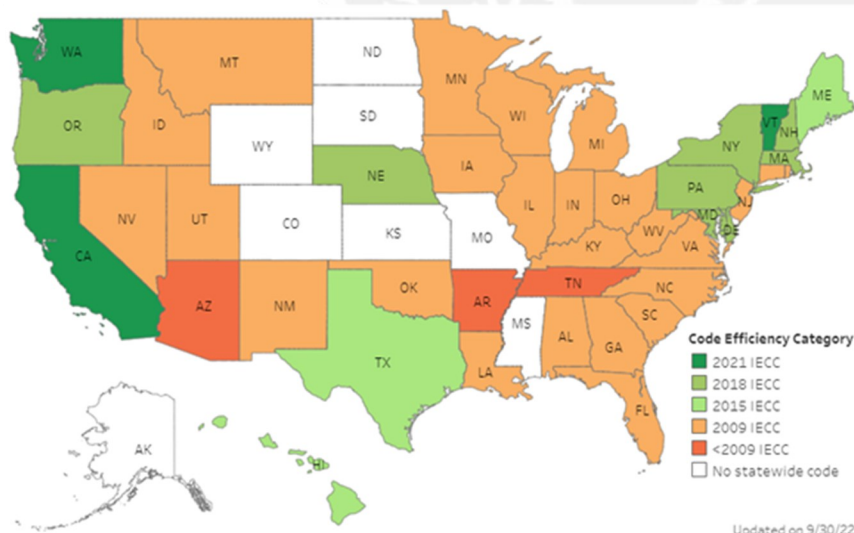
- * **Entergy Mississippi:** [Entergy Residential Solutions](#); [Entergy Solutions Marketplace](#); [Entergy Small Business Solutions](#); [Entergy Solutions for Business](#); [ENERGY STAR Small Business](#); [ENERGY STAR Commercial](#)
- * **Mississippi Power Co.:** [MS Power Residential Ways to Save](#); [Mississippi Power Energy Services](#); [MS Power Business Ways to Save](#)
- * **Atmos Energy:** [Mississippi SmartChoice Appliance Rebates](#)
- * **CenterPoint Energy:** [Efficiency Programs & Rebates for Residential](#); [Efficiency Programs & Rebates for Business](#)
- * **Spire Mississippi:** [Energy Efficiency Portfolio](#)

Modern Building Energy Code Could Slash Energy Use in Homes and Buildings

Residential and commercial buildings are responsible for approximately 40% of U.S. energy consumption. Energy codes are one of the strongest tools for reducing energy use from new buildings. Strong energy codes are also essential for a wide-reaching energy-efficient economy because they set a minimum standard that all buildings must meet, ensuring that no household or business in a new building is left with needlessly high energy bills. The Central District has been supportive of the implementation of statewide building energy codes and standards for residential and commercial buildings.

The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is updated every three years. The 2021 Edition of the IECC is the latest version and it was developed to help the code catch up to modern-day building technology and practices, reduce millions of tons of carbon from entering the atmosphere and reduce energy bills for tenants, homeowners, and business owners. The US DOE has determined that the 2021 residential energy code resulted in a 9.38% savings over the previous version. The 2024 IECC is already under development and the proposed residential provisions are expected to be released for public comment later this month.

The IECC has proved to be effective at reducing energy use in the states and localities that adopt it. However, Mississippi is one of eight states nationwide that have no statewide energy code for residential and



commercial buildings. The map above provides illustrates the status of statewide energy code adoption.



Highlights from the October 4th, 2022, Docket Meeting

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on October 4, 2022, at 10:00 am CT to consider the following [agenda](#) items:

- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Interim Adjustments to the Energy Cost Factor (ECF) and Power Management Cost Adjustment Factor (PCF) pursuant to Energy Cost Recovery Rider Schedule ECR-4 (Revised) ("ECR-4 (Revised)") and Power Management Rider Schedule PMR-13 ("PMR-13"). **The Commission** determined that Interim Adjustments are needed to address the impact high gas prices have had on the deferred fuel balance. The Interim Adjustment should be divided into two components, which will separately allow **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** to 1) recover a natural gas fuel rate that is better aligned with current prices and 2) recover the unrecovered deferred fuel balance of \$142 million as of September 30, 2022, over a period of 20 months. The total impact of the newly proposed ECF Interim Adjustments on the typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month is an increase of \$15.35, to be phased-in with incremental increases of \$2.56 each month beginning November 2022 and continuing through April 2023. The impact of the PCF Interim Adjustment for the typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month is a decrease of \$3.33, to be phased-in with incremental reductions of \$0.55 each month beginning November 2022 and continuing through April 2023. The typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month will see an increase of \$2.01 per month incrementally over six months until the total of \$12.02 is reached in April 2023.
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an [Order](#) regarding the Matter of a Comprehensive Review of **Atmos Energy Corporation's** Proposed Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 and approved the Joint Stipulation between the **Public Utilities Staff** and **Atmos Energy Corporation** regarding the System Integrity Rider (SIR) Rate Schedules. **The Public Utilities Staff** and **Atmos Energy** agree that the incremental SIR revenue requirement pursuant to the 2022 filing, the adjustments to the filing resulting from the stipulated provisions in the Stable Rate Adjustment docket, and the stipulated provisions outlined by the **Staff** and **Atmos** in the attached Exhibit, total \$8,559,9S9, resulting in a projected monthly rate increase to a typical residential customer of approximately \$1.90.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving and adopting the joint stipulation between the **Public Utility Staff** and **Atmos Energy Corporation** regarding **Atmos Energy Corporation's** Stable/Rate Adjustment Rider (SRA) Annual Evaluation for the 12 Months ending March 31, 2022. **Atmos Energy** and the **Public Utilities Staff** have met and through discovery, discussion, and negotiation, have resolved certain issues and the parties jointly stipulated to the following:
 - **Atmos Energy's** adjusted rate base without SIR shall be modified from \$526,712,029 to \$525,347,779 to reflect the capitalized portion of certain **Staff** adjustments. This reflects a reduction in rate base of \$1,364,250.
 - **Atmos Energy's** adjusted operation and maintenance expenses as amended are reduced by \$1,444,592 to \$49,584,604. The O&M expense adjustment includes Incentive compensation of \$1,110,854 and \$332,73 for other direct and allocated expenses adjusted by Staff.
 - Additional adjustments include a reduction in the amortization of debt expense of \$666; a reduction in the interest on long term debt in the amount of \$20,344; and an increase in regulatory tax expense and general taxes in the amount of \$113,383.
 - **Atmos Energy** also agreed to calculate its ROE in a manner consistent with other investor-owned utilities in Mississippi.



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Atmos Energy's 2022 Stable Rate Adjustment Evaluation with the adjustments stated above and agreed to by **Atmos** and the **Staff**, results in a Revenue Adjustment of \$12,188,176, resulting in a projected monthly rate increase to a typical residential customer of approximately \$3.04.

- ☑ **The Commission** also issued an [Order](#) approving **Atmos Energy Corporation's** Notice of Intent to Request Routine Change in Rate Schedules, Gas Service Policy, and Policy for Extension of Gas Facilities. These changes can be identified and broken-down in the following manner:
 - Elimination of rate schedules under which no customer is currently taking service.
 - **Atmos** proposes to eliminate rate schedules specific to Large Industrial and Municipal Electric Boiler Service, Flexible Sales Pricing Rider, and Supplemental Service Rider as there are no customers taking service under these rate schedules.
 - Closing certain schedules to new business while offering more simplistic rate schedules.
 - Proposal to close six rate schedules to new business (effective November 1, 2022), while opening two new rate schedules to replace those six rate schedules.
 - Closing certain rate schedules without replacement.
 - Proposal to close two rate schedules without proposing an alternative. Those are rate schedules for Heating Season Only - Residential Gas Service and Heating Season Only - General Gas Service.
 - Changes to **Atmos's** service policy and policy for extension of services.
 - Several clarifying edits to its service policies to make the provisions of those policies clearer.
 - Changes to the treatment of "Curtailed Events" to clarify the merit order in which customers will be curtailed in the case of such events, which are defined as "when **Atmos** determines that its ability to deliver gas may become inadequate to support continuous firm customers on its system and it reduces deliveries to one or more firm customers."
 - Proposal to simplify its miscellaneous charges to remove the various charges previously in the gas service policies with a single \$100 charge for re-establishing disconnected service.
 - Proposal to simplify its policy for extension of gas facilities to transfer from a calculation based on Mcf usage to a calculation based on number of feet of main extension.
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an [Order](#) confirming **T-Mobile's** and **Powertel/Memphis, Inc.** Relinquishment of Lifeline-Only Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Designation. **T-Mobile** stated that due to the Company's focus on other initiatives, it has decided that it will not continue to operate as a Lifeline-only ETC in the state. Its affiliate, Assurance Wireless, provides Lifeline service.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued Orders certifying the following entities as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) for purposes of the continued receipt and utilization of high-cost RDOF support for the 2023 universal support funding year:

Bell South/AT&T Mississippi	Cellular South Licenses, LLC	TEC of Jackson
Telepak Networks, LLC	New Cingular Wireless	Viasat Carrier Services, LLC
Aristotle Unified	East Mississippi Connect, LLC	Delta Fiber, LLC
Conexon Connect, LLC	Windstream Communications,	4-County Fiber, LLC

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 CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



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- ☑ **The Commission** also issued an [Order](#) certifying the following rural carriers as ETCs for purposes of the continued receipt and utilization of high-cost RDOF support for the 2023 universal support funding year:

Bay Springs Telephone Co.	Bruce Telephone Co.	Calhoun City TC	CenturyTel of North Mississippi	Decatur Telephone Co.
Franklin Telephone Co.	Frontier	Communications of MS	Fulton Telephone Co.	Georgetown Telephone Co.
Mound Bayou Telephone Co.	Myrtle Telephone Co.	Noxapater Telephone Co.	Sledge Telephone Co./ Lakeside Telephone	Smithville Telephone Co.
Southeast Mississippi Telephone Co.	Windstream Mississippi, Inc.			

- ☑ **The Commission** issued Orders referring the following for hearing, report, and recommendation of an appropriate Order, or any other action necessary:
- [Order Referring](#) the Petition of **Fable Solar, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing Construction, Ownership, and Operation of a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Stone County** to the Southern District Commissioner.
 - [Order Referring](#) the Petition of **Sunflower Solar, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing Construction, Ownership, and Operation of a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **George County** to the Southern District Commissioner.
 - [Order Referring](#) the Petition of the **City of Olive Branch** for a Certificate Of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Sewer Service in **Desoto County** to a Hearing Examiner.
 - [Order Referring](#) the Special Contract Between **Mississippi Power Company and Makerstar Capital, Inc.** in **Wiggins, Mississippi** to the Southern District Commissioner.
 - [Order Referring](#) the Special Contract Between **Mississippi Power Company and Makerstar Capital, Inc.** in **Meridian, Mississippi** to the Central District Commissioner.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) accepting **National Directory Assistance, LLC's** Voluntary Petition to Cancel its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. **National Directory Assistance, LLC** no longer offers the telecommunications services authorized by the certificate or any retail services in the state and therefore offers to surrender its certificate.
- ☑ **The Commission** took action in Docket No. 2021-AD-019, **Mississippi Public Service Commission's Net Metering and Interconnection Rules**, and the **Commission** made the following final revisions to the **Mississippi Distributed Generation Rule** in an [Order Amending the Rules Post-Rehearing](#):
1. Following rehearing, the **Commission** determined that the July 2022 rule revisions permitting aggregation of meters by a single customer should be removed from the Distributed Generation Rule. As previously drafted, customers with multiple meters located in a single Electric Utility service territory would be permitted to aggregate those meters and offset their total usage. All provisions permitting meter aggregation were struck.
 2. **The Commission** found that the three percent (3%) participation caps contained in the original Mississippi Renewable Energy Net Metering Rule should be reinserted into the Distributed Generation Rule. Nothing precludes the **Commission** from increasing the participation caps at a later date.



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3. Distributed generation system capacity limits will continue to be measured in terms of direct current (DC) rather than alternating current (AC) as revised in July 2022. Furthermore, eligible system size shall now be measured as “the lesser of 110% of the customer’s annual peak demand,” or 20 kW for residential customers and 2 MW for nonresidential customers. These changes provide clarity for all parties and safeguard against valid consumer protection concerns.
4. Consumer protection provisions, including specific registration requirements for solar developers and installers, have been added to the Distributed Generation Rule. Such requirements serve to offer DG customers a level of protection by ensuring that the developers and installers with whom they deal have been authorized to conduct business in the state, have attested to the accuracy of their marketing materials, and have provided necessary contact information to the State in the event problems or complaints arise.
5. “Low-Income Benefits Adder” has been renamed the “Low-to-Moderate Income Benefits Adder,” and eligibility for the adder has been modified to include customers with annual household incomes of up to 225% of the federal poverty level. This terminology change simply provides a more accurate characterization of the customers who may receive this additional 2 cents per kWh hour adder.
6. Considering the replacement of the three percent (3%) participation caps, the Reopener provision of the Rule has been revised to simply state that the **Commission** may revisit the Rule within five (5) years of its effective date.
7. Lastly, the Order sets forth provisions instructing the utilities to make separate filings for the approval of Solar-for-Schools programs and up-front incentives for distributed generation systems. For the 85 school districts who are eligible to participate, this initiative will give them an opportunity to grow their energy savings, reinvest in academic programs, and make students aware of these new technologies.



Commissioner Bailey speaks with WLBT’s Courtney Ann Jackson following the Commission’s October Docket meeting, at which Commissioners Bailey and Brandon Presley (Northern) voted to approve the amendments to the former Net Metering and Interconnection Rules, now referred to as the “Mississippi Distributed Generation Rules”.

*See the MPSC Central District’s [Press Release](#) announcing the final revisions to the **Mississippi Distributed Generation Rule**.

Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its Formulary Facilities Charge [FFC Cost Factor Update](#). The “FFC” rate schedule approved by the Commission requires that MPC periodically update its Monthly Facilities Charge Formula determined in accordance with the methodology provided in Rate Schedule “FFC”.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its Notice of Special Contract with **Makerstar Capital, Inc.** to provide electric service to **Makerstar** at certain facilities located in [Wiggins](#) and [Meridian](#) Mississippi.
- ✎ **The Public Utilities Staff** and **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed their [Joint Stipulation](#) between Atmos and the Public Utilities Staff regarding the Stable Rate Annual Evaluation for (12) Months ending March 31, 2022.
- ✎ **The Public Utilities Staff** and **Atmos Energy Corporation** also filed their [Joint Stipulation](#) between Atmos and the Public Utilities Staff in the matter of a Comprehensive Review of Atmos Energy Corporation’s Capital Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023.



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- ✎ **The Commission** issued an [Order Setting Hearing](#) on Dispositive Motions and Providing Notice in regard to **Airus, Inc. vs. Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC D/B/A AT&T Mississippi**. The motions will be heard at 10:00 a.m., on the 25th day of October 2022, before a hearing examiner in the Mississippi Public Service Commission Hearing Room, 1st Floor, Woolfolk State Office Building.
- ✎ **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC** filed its [Notice](#) of Intent to Establish Initial and Temporary Rates for Water Service for Parks Subdivision in **Noxubee County**. Great River requests the temporary authority to provide service to the system to be acquired and establish the initial and temporary rate of fifteen dollar (\$15.00) per month flat rate. As with the other systems being acquired by **Great River**, the initial and temporary rates proposed reflect the reasonable estimated cost of providing service but may not reflect the actual cost of such service and will, therefore, later require adjustment. The Parks subdivision will be subject to the state-wide rates following approval of the **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC's** first annual Formula Rate Plan filing currently under review at the **Commission**.
- ✎ **The Public Utilities Staff** prepared and filed the Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Audit Reports for the period June 1, 2022 through June 31, 2022 for the following entities: [Atmos](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire Monthly](#)
- ✎ **Yokena-Jeff Davis Water District Inc.** filed its [Certificate of Notice](#) to Interested Persons in regard to its Application for a Certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing it to construct, operate and maintain a water system in a specified area in **Warren County**.
- ✎ **Neo Network Development, Inc.** filed its [Motion](#) to Extend Time to provision regulated telecommunications services in the State beyond the current deadline of October 30, 2022.
- ✎ **Delta Fiber, LLC** filed its informational [Revised Tariff Pages](#). The purpose of the revision is to increase the monthly service charge for symmetrical 100 Mbps and 1 Gbps residential broadband service by \$5.00 per month, effective as of October 3, 2022.

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



I was proud to join Atmos Energy and the Community Foundation for Mississippi last week to announce generous contributions made to the Jackson Public School District's 'Partners in Education' (housed within the Mary Morrison School) by Atmos Energy that will help provide crucial assistance in



Jackson following the most recent water crisis. We appreciate the tour and hospitality from Dr. Errick Greene, JPS Superintendent, and Thea Faulkner, with Partners in Education.

Last Thursday, I had the opportunity to visit with Blan Holman, VP of Regulatory Affairs for Pine Gate Renewables (Asheville, NC). Pine Gate Renewables is a utility-scale renewable energy company focused on strategic development and financing of solar and energy storage projects in the United States. We look forward to future communications with Mr. Holman and their team as renewable projects continue to grow in Mississippi.

FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



Last Friday, I had the opportunity to get back over to Vicksburg to tour parts of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). Our



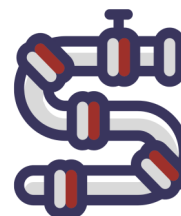
morning started off with a comprehensive overview presentation by Dr. Beth Fleming (ERDC Deputy Director). We then made our way over to the Information Technology Laboratory and viewed some of their supercomputing resources. Next, we took a tour of the Aquatic and Wetlands Ecosystem R&D Center, an extensive complex for research on environmental issues related to plants and animals within aquatic and wetland ecosystems. Our final stop was at the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, a test facility used to develop designs for a full-scale levee breach repair and so much more. With state-of-the art facilities, cutting edge technologies and an extensive research team, ERDC continues to tackle our nation's most complex challenges and develop innovative solutions for a safer, better world. We appreciate the hospitality of Jack Wheeldon, Dr. David Horner, Alan Katzenmeyer, Dr. Duncan Bryant and so many others throughout the day. I look forward to another visit soon to continue exploring the ERDC!

George, Davis and I had a great time visiting with some of our Senior Citizens at the 27th Annual Senior Health and Wellness Fair hosted by the City of Jackson's Department of Human and Cultural Services. I appreciate the Department for the opportunity to share info about energy efficiency and those annoying robocalls.

Our Pipeline Safety Division completed **3** construction inspections in the Central District during the month of September.

The total amount of construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of September is approximately **\$3,043,000**.

"Reporting of Construction Work"- The rule is found in Chapter 57.1: All Construction work involving gas facilities in which the estimated cost of proposed facilities is in excess of eight thousand dollars are related facilities that would be governed by the Federal Minimum Safety Requirements, will be reported in writing, or via telephone to the MS Public Service Commission prior to starting date of such construction. (There are exceptions for emergencies.)



The Commission encourages all intra-state natural gas operators to comply with the rule.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **29** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	22
Telecommunications	5
Natural Gas	1
Water/Sewer	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **217** 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.