

November 17, 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



2022 NARUC Annual Meeting and Education Conference

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Innovative/Disruptive Technology and Regulation

NOVEMBER 13-16, 2022 • NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

The 134th Annual Meeting and Education Conference of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is in the books. Nearly 1,300 attendees including regulators, utility representatives, technology developers, trade associations and many others convened to cover a wide range of energy and utility issues. Events such as this provide opportunities to engage and interact with fellow regulators and utility specialists, share experiences and learn about new programs, technologies and information systems that can benefit customers. I always come away with new materials and perspectives that will help guide me in my decision making as the Mississippi Public Service Commission seeks the most efficient way to continue the provision of safe, reliable, affordable utility services.

I started the Conference by attending the kickoff of this year's Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF) theme of "Navigating the Challenges and Opportunities of Today's Regulatory Landscape." State utility commissions constantly make decisions that impact customers, regulated companies, project investors, and other stakeholders. Throughout 2023, CCIF will engage state commissions, consumer advocates, and electric companies in a series of dialogues analyzing economic pressures and other electric utility sector challenges (inflation; high natural gas prices; extreme weather; physical and cyber security threats; clean energy transition; reliability and resilience; pricing and affordability; new legislation; etc.) and proposing potential regulatory actions that facilitate solutions.



With CCIF Executive Director Katrina McMurrian and NARUC Past-President Paul Kjellander



Receiving an update on nuclear research with fellow commissioners from New Jersey, Montana and Illinois.

I also participated in meetings of those committees for which I am a member. These include the Nuclear Issues Committee where we received an update on the progress of Plant Vogtle in Georgia.



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Vogtle Units 3 and 4 are the only nuclear facilities under construction in the U.S. The Department of Energy discussed its role in the research and development of advanced nuclear systems, including small modular reactor technology, and its work seeking long-term solutions for spent nuclear fuel disposal. Representatives of nuclear trade associations discussed how recently adopted federal legislation may impact the sector and how public opinion of nuclear may be shifting.

The Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment took up and recommended that NARUC adopt a resolution that encourages state and federal agencies and organizations, electric utilities and other stakeholders to work collaboratively to address issues that will likely arise should we see widespread adoption of electric vehicles and do so in a way that minimizes costs. Other [resolutions](#) on broadband policy and safe drinking water programs were also advanced in those respective committees.

The Board of the Organization of MISO States (OMS) also took advantage of having a large number of its members present to work on matters key to sustaining a reliable, resilient transmission grid across the midsection of the U.S. This meeting primarily focused on adopting a position statement that will guide MISO and its stakeholders in the potential revision of the technical tools and market mechanisms that ensure electricity resource adequacy and generator reliability in the region.



Meeting of the OMS Board. Flanked by Commissioners from Michigan and North Dakota.

The general sessions examined issues related to the role of natural gas in the nation's clean energy transition and the interrelationships between state utility commissions, legislatures, utilities, consumers and Wall Street. Meanwhile, twenty technical breakout sessions featured panels of experts that explored topics such as energy storage potential, technology applications on the distribution grid, utility planning and supply chain risks, and new thinking around customer engagement strategies.



During the NARUC Opening General Session, members elected a new slate of organization officers, which includes new NARUC president, Michael Caron, a commissioner at the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. *See photo at left.* Mr. Caron succeeds Virginia State Corporation Commission [Judge Judith Williams Jagdmann](#).

The annual meeting was also the site of the fifth meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission. The task force is comprised of all FERC commissioners and two state representatives from each of the five NARUC regions. The agenda title for this meeting was *Addressing Regulatory Gaps/Challenges in Oversight of Transmission Development*.

I also had the opportunity to take a tour of Enchanted Rock's Electrical Resiliency-as-a-Service emergency standby power unit and microgrid. The system provides resiliency to the local Walmart Store #912 in New Orleans. The 1.34 MW natural gas fired emergency standby unit provides long duration outage protection for the entire store. This system keeps food and medicines safe and avoids costly losses. In the future, the unit will be able to provide grid support services.



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Representatives of Walmart and Enchanted Rock share technical and operational information about this resiliency technology that provides power outage protection for the entire store.



Participating in these events helps to expand my knowledge of new

technologies and policies as well as build relationships with other regulators across the nation. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve and represent the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Public Service Commission at these venues.



NARUC Executive Director Greg White and 2021-2022 NARUC President Judge Judith Williams Jagdmann of Virginia



With northwest neighbor Arkansas Commissioner, Kim O'Guinn



With Minnesota Commissioner and fellow boater, Joe Sullivan

**MORE PICS FROM
THE 134TH NARUC
ANNUAL MEETING AND
EDUCATION
CONFERENCE**



Tallahatchie County native, Zach Ramage, performs Protective Service Operations for FERC Commissioners. FERC Commissioners are frequent participants in NARUC's meetings, and I have enjoyed getting to know Zach as our paths cross frequently. Thanks for your service, Zach!



With Kim Greene, Chairman, President and CEO at Southern Company Gas. Ms. Greene spoke on a panel with leaders from MISO and the Gas Technology Institute to discuss the role of natural gas in America's clean energy future.



With Iowa Commissioner and car guy, Joshua Byrnes



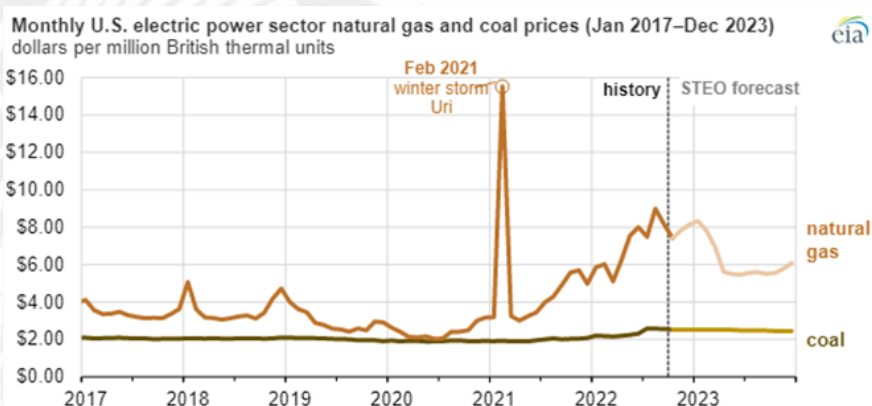
Natural Gas News: Prices Projected to Decrease in 2023

U.S. natural gas prices began rising in 2021 because of tighter supply and demand balances, low inventories, and weather-related consumption limitations and production outages. High natural gas prices in the global marketplace also drove natural gas exports. In 2021, the United States exported 30% more natural gas compared with 2020. The U.S. became the world's largest liquefied natural gas exporter over the first six months of 2022.

Demand for natural gas continued to grow in 2022 driven by an increase in natural gas-fired generation capacity due to retirement of coal-fired generation. Natural gas accounted for 37% of all power generation in 2021 and for 38% of all power generation in 2022, nearly equal to the combined shares of coal and nuclear (the next two largest sources). Although natural gas consumption in the U.S. electric power sector has been setting new records in recent months, the EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook forecasts that natural gas consumption in the electric power sector will decline in 2023 relative to 2022.

The EIA is forecasting that natural gas prices will begin falling after March 2023 due to anticipated production increases, stability in the global markets, and reduction in natural demand in the electric power generation sector. We all know any one of these factors can change and create market disruptions that could have an adverse impact on prices. In the meantime, the MPSC is working with the utilities to address the

impact that currently high natural gas prices is having on utility rates and customers' bills.



Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ The following entities filed their Lifeline Biennial Audit Reports. These Lifeline Biennial Audit Reports were issued October 27, 2022 and filed with the FCC on October 28, 2022. This Report covers the audit period of January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019: [Q Link Wireless, LLC](#); [Sage Telecom Communications, LLC](#)
- ✎ **The Public Utilities Staff** reviewed and prepared Purchased Gas Audit Reports for the following entities for the period July 1, 2022, through July 31, 2022: [Atmos Energy](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire MS](#)
- ✎ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) Allowing **Connect Everyone, LLC**'s Withdrawal of Application for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to Receive Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction Support.
- ✎ **Mobilitie, LLC** filed its [Notice of Consummation](#) which was previously approved by the **Commission** on July 12, 2022.
- ✎ **The Commission** also issued an [Order](#) of Automatic Dismissal of the Application of **Magna5 LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for lack of prosecution due to the fact that there has been no activity of record or written order taken for a period of nine months.
- ✎ **CenturyTel Acquisition LLC d/b/a enTouch Wireless ("Boomerang Wireless")** filed its [Notice](#) of Possible Service Interruption and customer contact information.



CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



I was so honored last Thursday evening to meet Senator Mark Daly, the Chair of the Senate of Ireland! He is meeting with Mississippi officials to expand economic opportunity between the two countries. And like so many nations, energy is a major concern for the public and private sectors. The histories of the U.S. and Ireland run deep and I am humbled to be made a member of the American Irish Caucus.



Thank you to the Madison County Business League and Foundation Chair Charlotte Seals, Jan Collins and Phil Buffington for the invitation to speak during their November Board Meeting.



I appreciate Southern Pine Electric for the invitation to speak during their annual meeting last week at their Headquarters in Taylorsville. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with President/CEO Chris Rhodes, the Southern Pine EPA Board and Staff, and their members. Thank you again Jan Collins for inviting the Central District to attend!



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

Electric Companies	14
Water/Sewer	4
Telecommunications	3

Last week, the Central District received a total of **196** 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.