

November 29, 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*



## **Solar For Schools FAQs**

On October 4, 2022, the Commission adopted revisions to its modified Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule and Mississippi Distributed Generation Rule. The [Order Amending Rules](#) also instructed the utilities to make tariff filings reflecting Commission directives for the approval of a Solar for Schools Program. For the approximately 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.

The Commission has been receiving various questions regarding the parameters of the program, implementation timeline and project development requirements. The Commission has put together a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to help school leaders and project developers better understand the purpose and functionality of the program. Along with the FAQs document, you can also review the Solar for Schools guidance document and the lists of eligible school districts. Note that the FAQs document will likely evolve as the program progresses.

[Solar for Schools FAQs](#)

[Solar for Schools Portion of Exhibits](#)

[School districts served by Entergy Mississippi LLC](#)

[School districts served by Mississippi Power Co.](#)

## **Energy News**

### **Rural Expansion of Natural Gas in Mississippi Spotlited**

Despite nearly 2.5 million miles of natural gas lines spread across the U.S., many areas of the country do not have access to natural gas infrastructure. *American Gas*, the monthly publication of the AGA, is [spotlighting the work of Mississippi](#) (and other states) to expand natural gas service to rural areas that are unserved or underserved.

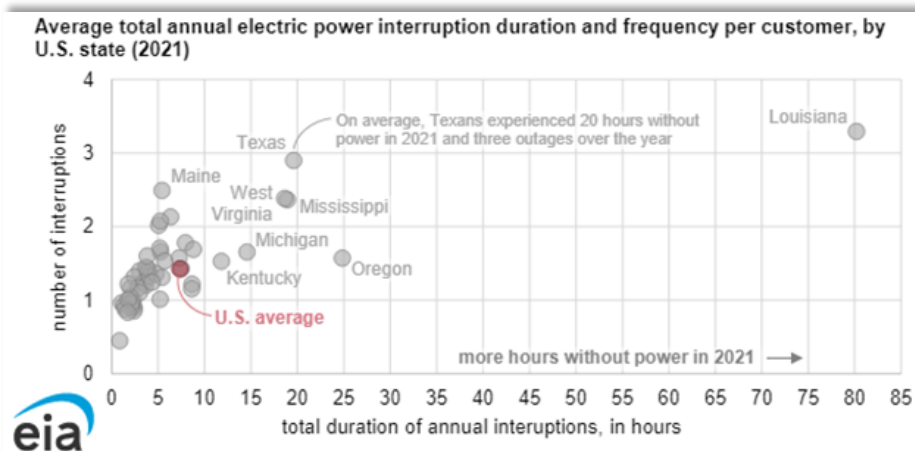
### **Arkansas PSC Approves Large Solar Facility**

The Arkansas Public Service Commission recently approved the Entergy Arkansas Driver Solar Project, a new 250-megawatt AC (or 312 MW DC) renewable energy facility that will be developed by Lightsource bp on approximately 2,100 acres near Osceola in Mississippi County. Driver Solar will be the utility's largest solar facility. The Driver Solar site is situated adjacent to both the U. S. Steel's Big River Steel facility and the recently announced \$3 billion mill expansion and will help them meet their objective of producing advanced sustainable steel products.



## **Annual Electric Power Industry Report Includes Power Outage Data**

On average, U.S. electricity customers experienced just over seven hours of electric power interruptions in 2021, almost an hour less than in 2020. When major events—including snowstorms, hurricanes, and wildfires—are excluded, the average duration of interruptions is around two hours. Customers in Louisiana, Oregon, Texas, Mississippi and West Virginia experienced the most time with interrupted power in 2021. Long interruptions were largely because of extreme weather events: major hurricanes, tornadic activity and a historic winter storm.



## **Duke Energy Acquires Wildflower Solar Project**

Duke Energy Sustainable Solutions has acquired the 100 MW Wildflower Solar project from Clearway Energy Group. Toyota North America has signed a 15-year virtual power purchase agreement (VPPA) for up to 80 MWs of the solar energy produced by the project. The VPPA represents another major step towards Toyota's goal of achieving carbon neutrality in its operations by 2035. Wildflower Solar is expected to achieve commercial operation in late 2023. See our map of existing and planned solar projects in Mississippi at: <https://files.constantcontact.com/8c5d2a30801/99e8b740-0fb8-4c37-ace1-f7988641c77a.pdf>.

## **Diablo Canyon Nuclear to Remain Open**

Diablo Canyon, the only operational nuclear plant left in California, was due to be shut down in two phases in 2024 and 2025 despite safely producing 8.6% of the state's electrical energy. However, the U.S. Department of Energy announced it is providing Pacific Gas & Electric Co. with a \$1.1 billion grant through the Civil Nuclear Credit Program to help the company prevent the closure of the facility. Shifting energy markets, state policies, and other economic factors have resulted in the early closures of commercial nuclear reactors (and coal-fired plants) across the country.

## **Nearly One-Fourth of Coal Power Plants Could Retire by 2029**

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports that 23% of the 200,568 megawatts (MW) of coal-fired electric generation capacity currently operating in the United States is set to go offline by the end of 2029. Competition from natural gas and renewable power, Environmental Protection Agency regulations, and higher operating and maintenance costs are driving retirements of these facilities.

## **Latest LNG Facility Approved for Louisiana**

The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission unanimously approved the application of Commonwealth LNG, LLC to construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal near Cameron, Louisiana. The Commonwealth LNG project is expected to export 8.4 million tonnes of LNG annually beginning in 2027.



## Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Resources

A new website, [The Electric Generation](#), was launched to highlight news on the [National Electric Highway Coalition](#)'s (NEHC) status of deploying electric vehicle (EV) fast charging stations that will allow the public to drive EVs with confidence along major U.S. travel corridors. The NEHC is a collaboration of more than 60 investor-owned and municipal electric companies and electric cooperatives, including Entergy Corp., Southern Company and Tennessee Valley Authority. Also, see the latest update to the [EV Program Database](#), which includes detailed information on nearly 400 state level electric transportation-focused programs.

## Telecommunications News



### FCC Releases Draft National Broadband Map

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a pre-production draft of its new National Broadband Map. The map will display specific location-level information about broadband services available throughout the country. This release kicks off the public challenge process to improve the accuracy of the map. The public will be able to view the maps at [broadbandmap.fcc.gov](https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov) and search for their address to see information about the fixed and mobile services that internet providers report are available. Citizens are encouraged to review the map and file challenges or corrections if information is not accurate.

### FCC Bans Certain Chinese Telecom and Surveillance Equipment

The FCC adopted new rules prohibiting communications equipment deemed to pose an unacceptable risk to national security from being authorized for importation or sale in the United States. The [Report and Order](#) applies to future authorizations of equipment identified on the [Covered List](#) published by the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. In addition, the FCC has prohibited the use of public funds to purchase covered equipment or services, launched the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program to remove insecure equipment that has already been installed in U.S. networks and revoked operating authorities for Chinese state-owned carriers based on recommendations from national security agencies.

## Last Week at the MPSC

-  **Mississippi Power Company (MPC)** filed its [Notice of Filing](#) of the Fuel Cost Recovery and Energy Cost Management Factors for February 2023 through January 2024 pursuant to its Fuel Cost Recovery Clause, Schedule "FCR-2" and its Energy Cost Management Clause, Schedule "ECM-2A." Given the increases recently experienced in fuel commodity pricing (natural gas and coal), the calculated Factors, if implemented as is, would have resulted in a \$8.98 increase to the monthly bill of a 1,000 kWh residential customer. However, to mitigate the bill impact to customers, **MPC** proposes to temporarily defer recovery of the FCR under recovery equal to \$48.8 million. **MPC's** mitigation proposal would result in a \$3.02 increase to the monthly bill of a 1,000 kWh residential customer with the first billing of February 2023. **MPC** then proposes to phase in 50% of the deferred balance back into customer's rates beginning with the first billing of June 2023. This proposal would result in an additional \$2.98 increase to the monthly bill of 1,000 kWh residential customer, for a total impact to rates of \$6.00 per month.
-  **Mississippi Power Company** also filed its 2023 [Capital Plan](#) for the Commission's Annual Evaluation pursuant to PEP-6 Rate Schedule for regulatory year 2022.





*Continued*

- ✎ **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for approval of the sale and transfer of Certain Assets, Facilities, Property, and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Provision of Wastewater Disposal Service in **Claiborne**, Forrest, Harrison, Oktibbeha, and **Rankin Counties**. The following waste water systems located in the Central District also simultaneously filed Joinder Petitions and Certifying MS Department of Environmental Quality Permits in support of **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC's** filing: Major Mortgage and Investment Company filed its [Certification](#) and [Joinder Petition](#), it serves Hollyrood and Trace Hills Subdivision located in Port Gibson in **Claiborne County**; TMJ, LLC filed its [Certification](#) and [Joinder Petition](#), it serves Sherwood Forrest located in Brandon in **Rankin County**.
- ✎ **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** also filed its [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Approving the Provision of Wastewater Disposal Service in a Specified Area in **Rankin County**. **Great River Utility** has entered into an asset purchase agreement with **TMJ, LLC** the entity currently providing wastewater treatment service to the community of Sherwood Forrest subdivision. **TMJ, LLC** has not previously requested nor been granted a Certificate from the Commission to operate the system.
- ✎ In addition, **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Establish Initial and Temporary Rates for Wastewater Disposal Service for the **TMJ Subdivision in Rankin County**. **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** is proposing a temporary flat rate of twenty-seven dollars (\$27.00) per month. **TMJ, LLC** has neither requested nor been granted a Commission-approved tariff of rates for service in said area.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued a [Recommended Order](#) approving **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC's** Notice of Intent to Establish Initial and Temporary Rates for Water Service for Parks Subdivision in **Noxubee County**. Therefore, **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** shall be permitted to charge, as a temporary emergency measure, the rate of fifteen (\$15.00) per month as set forth in their proposed Tariff. Since the temporary rates will need to eventually be adjusted the **Commission** has further ordered that while temporary rates are in effect, **Great River** will work expeditiously to determine its actual costs for operating and maintaining the Parks system in a safe, reliable, and efficient manner.
- ✎ **The City of Brandon** filed its [Application](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing It to Operate and Maintain a Water System Within a [Specified Area In Rankin County](#) within one (1) mile of the corporate limits of the city in order to obtain the exclusive right to provide water utility services in the subject area. There are presently approximately 220 water customers in the area, all of which are served by the City of Brandon. The number of prospective new customers is estimated to be 675.
- ✎ **Delta Fiber, LLC** filed its [Application](#) for Expansion of its Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for the Limited Purpose of Offering Federal Lifeline Benefits to Eligible Subscribers in [Additional Areas](#).
- ✎ **SR Marshall, LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for a Facilities Certificate to Construct and Operate a 4.75 MW Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Marshall County**. The initial investment in Mississippi necessary to develop and construct the Facility will be approximately \$5,200,000. The Facility is scheduled to be in commercial operation by December 31, 2023.



*The MPSC's December Regular Docket Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, December 6. The meeting is open to the public and will be streamed online.*



# CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



Entergy Corporation's new CEO/Chairman Drew Marsh came by the office to introduce himself and share his vision for Entergy's future. With him were Entergy Mississippi's Haley Fisackerly, CEO, and Jeremy Vanderloo, VP of Regulatory Affairs.



I appreciate the invitation from Mozingo Lowe to help kick off a Utility-Scale Solar Workshop for Public Officials and Community Leaders held at the B.B. King Museum in Indianola, MS. Hosted by the [Center for Energy Education](#), the event was designed to address issues such as solar development status in the state, impact of solar technology deployment, economic impacts and legal considerations.



While at the hunting camp over the break, I made a stop by Mississippi Power's Walnut Grove Solar + Storage Demonstration Project. The facility is a 1.285 MW solar production facility with a 5.14



MWh battery energy storage component. When commissioned, the resilience project will allow the town of Walnut Grove to continue operations during temporary outage events. Testing for various outage and grid islanding scenarios is on schedule and has gone very well to date.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **12** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	7
Water/Sewer	3
Telecommunications	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **116** 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.**