

December 14, 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.

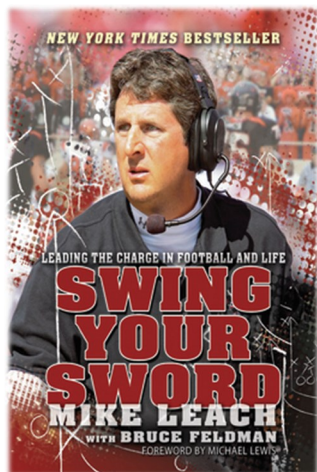
Brent Bailey

.....
And the final game ball goes to

Mississippi State Football Head Coach Mike Leach

If anyone knows me well, they know that I am a Mississippi State University Bulldog through and through. MSU is a great university with a rich history, strong foundation and solid future. Like so many, I follow our MSU sports teams. And like so many others in the Bulldog family, I am in shock and mourning with the news of the [passing of Coach Mike Leach](#).

Running a major college football program is no easy task. Yet, Coach Leach has had success throughout his career. His ideas and offensive innovation will continue to influence how the game is played for years to come. Furthermore, his wit, opinions and observations on history, science and life in



general will be greatly missed by all. Let's all lift up the family of Coach Leach with love and prayers as they grieve and make preparations to memorialize and celebrate his life. ***Rest in peace, Coach.***



It was such an incredible honor to meet and visit with Coach Leach last year at the Neshoba County Fair.





Energy Related News and Notes

2022 ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard Released

The [2022 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#), now in its 15th edition, is based on data collected from state utility commissions and state energy offices as well as publicly available data. The scorecard ranks states in six policy areas: utility programs, transportation, building energy codes, state initiatives, industrial energy efficiency, and appliance standards.

Leading states have instituted broadly applied energy efficiency policies and programs that cut utility bills—especially for those who need it most—while reducing emissions and growing the economy. These policies can serve as models for the dozens of states—including Mississippi—that have yet to prioritize statewide energy-saving policies to reduce costs for households.

The 2022 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard ranked [Mississippi #46](#) out of 51 (including Washington, DC). The report recognizes that Mississippi has some utility energy efficiency programs, but the programs are not offered across all electric and natural gas utilities. Very few cooperatives, utility districts or municipalities offer energy efficiency programs to its customers. The state's electric vehicle registration fee creates a ratio of 1.79 as compared to gas tax revenue for comparable conventional vehicle fuel economy and miles traveled. Furthermore, the state's building energy codes are among the weakest in the U.S.

Mississippi policy makers should take heed and aim to make more progress in helping citizens reduce energy burden in both urban and rural areas of the state – regardless of the provider of energy service. We should all recognize the role of energy efficiency to keep energy affordable by helping homeowners and businesses reduce costs, improve living conditions, and create jobs, all while increasing economic activity. I plan to address residential energy consumption, energy burden, and bills vs. rates in a future newsletter.

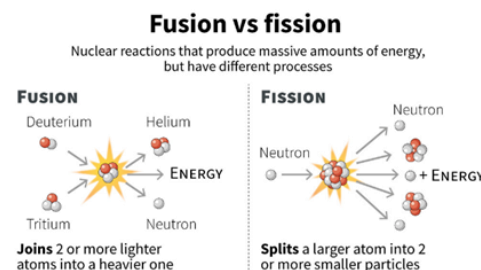
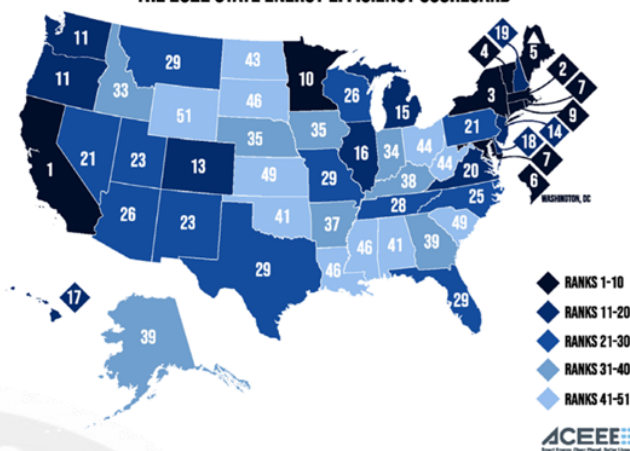
DOE Announces Historic Achievement in Nuclear Fusion Ignition

On Tuesday, December 13, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced a major scientific breakthrough decades in the making. A team at LLNL's National Ignition Facility conducted the first controlled fusion experiment in history to reach scientific energy breakeven, meaning the reaction produced more energy from fusion than the laser energy used to drive it. This milestone could pave the way for advancements in national defense and the future of clean power.

Nuclear fusion is the process of fusing two or more atoms into one larger one, a process that unleashes potentially usable energy as heat. It is a nuclear fusion process that is the source of light and heat energy in the Sun. The nuclear power used today is created by a different process, called fission, which harnesses the energy produced by splitting atoms but also produces radioactive waste that must be safely contained.

Nuclear fusion has long been considered the holy grail in the push to provide clean, sustainable energy. But it will likely be decades until this type of energy can be produced commercially, affordably and safely at scale. See the DOE [news release](#) for more information.

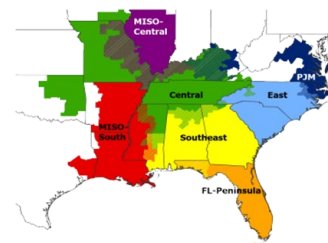
THE 2022 STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD





SERC 2022-2023 Regional Winter Reliability Assessment

The Southeast Reliability Corporation (SERC) performed its [2022-23 Regional Winter Assessment](#) to better understand the generation resource and transmission adequacy projections for the upcoming winter season and to highlight any seasonal concerns that may affect reliability in the region. The report provides important perspective to better understand the reliability landscape for the upcoming winter and concludes that the SERC Region has sufficient generation resources to meet its anticipated electric demand with an adequate level of planning reserves. Furthermore, no transmission adequacy concerns were identified for the upcoming winter under normal conditions. That said, there were some other key findings that should be considered:



- With the increase in electrification of transportation and the continued transition to electric heating and appliances, some SERC subregions are seeing an increase in winter peak loads.
- Fuel availability remains a concern for the coming winter. The SERC footprint contains a large amount of natural gas generation, and disruptions to gas supply would have immediate and substantial impact. Coal transportation is another area where uncertainty exists, and it directly affects fuel supply at those generating stations that rely upon coal.
- Transmission analyses do not show any transmission adequacy concerns.
- The potential for extreme weather is a concern. While SERC registered entities have improved winterization plans, and they continue to focus on preparedness activities, the threat of a prolonged cold weather event remains a risk to reliability.

SERC's mission is to reduce risks to the reliability and security of the Bulk-Power System within the SERC Region for today and the future.

Last Week at the MPSC

- ✉ **Tombigbee Fiber, LLC** filed its [Application](#) for Expansion of its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in the State for the limited purpose of providing federal Lifeline benefits in Proposed [additional areas](#) in the State.
- ✉ **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its Rule 7.103 [Construction Notice](#) for the Calhoun City Project located in **Calhoun County**. This System Integrity project will include installation of approximately 3.5 miles of high-pressure steel distribution pipeline. This new distribution pipeline will allow the existing 6-inch legacy steel transmission line located in a high consequence area (HCA) along Mississippi Highway No's 8 and 9, to be operated at distribution pressure and be removed from the transmission integrity program.
- ✉ **The Commission** issued a [Report and Recommendation on Order](#) of the Hearing examiner regarding the Petition of **Fable Solar, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing Construction, Ownership, and Operation of an approximately 109.2 MW_{DC} Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in **Stone County**. The initial investment in Mississippi necessary to develop and construct the Facility will be approximately \$112,000,000.
- ✉ **The Commission** also issued a [Report and Recommendation on Order](#) of the Hearing examiner regarding the **Sunflower Solar, LLC** Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing the development, construction, ownership, and operation of an approximately 112 MW_{DC} Solar photovoltaic electric generating facility in **George County**. The initial investment in Mississippi necessary to develop and construct this Facility will also be approximately \$112,000,000.
- ✉ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Application](#) for Approval of EDGE Resources to Support Reliability, Fuel Diversity, and Economic Development; and for Other Relief. The projects are estimated to provide customers with approximately \$39 million in net benefits, on a present value basis, over the course of 20 years. The EDGE Resources should reliably fill a capacity need for customers, consistent with **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** [2021 Integrated Resource Plan](#).

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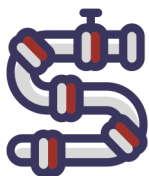


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The EDGE Resources complement **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** generation portfolio, which consists of thousands of megawatts of dispatchable natural gas, nuclear and coal-fired generating facilities, further diversifying the **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** fuel mix. This new generation will produce emission-free energy without fuel cost volatility. The State should see significant economic development opportunities as the EDGE Resources are expected to help **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** and the State recruit and retain businesses and industries seeking access to diverse power sources. The EDGE Renewable Resources proposal currently includes the following proposed solar power purchase agreements:

1. 20-year power purchase agreement ("PPA") for the purchase of approximately 150 MW from a solar project to be built and located in **Hinds County**, Mississippi (the "Hinds PPA");
 2. 20-year PPA for the purchase of approximately 170 MW from a solar project to be built and located in **Washington County**, Mississippi (the "Greer PPA"); and
 3. 20-year PPA for the purchase of approximately 100 MW from a solar project to be built and located in **Tallahatchie County**, Mississippi (the "Wildwood PPA").
- ✉ **BCM One, Inc. and Wholesale Carrier Services, Inc.** filed their [Joint Application](#) requesting approval, of a reorganization involving the intermediate transfer of control of **BCM One, Inc., Wholesale Carrier Services, Inc., and BCM One Group Holdings** (the "Pro Forma Restructuring" or "Restructuring").
- ✉ **SR Byhalia, LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction and operation of a 4.75 MW solar generation facility located in **Marshall County**. The [Facility](#) will be constructed on approximately 105 acres in the town of Byhalia at the intersection of E Stonewall and French Roads. The investment in Mississippi necessary to develop and construct the Facility will be approximately \$5,800,000. The Facility will sell wholesale energy to Northcentral Electric Cooperative pursuant to the terms of a Power Purchase Agreement and is scheduled to be in commercial operation by December 31, 2023.

Our Pipeline Safety Division completed **1** construction inspection in the Central District during the month of November.



The total amount of construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of November is approximately **\$1,137,000**.

"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

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



Last week, I had a great introductory meeting with Jason Pope. Jason is the new Director of the State Energy Office (also known as the Energy & Natural Resources Division), housed under the Mississippi Development Authority. I look forward to working with him and the Energy & Natural Resources Division team on energy matters across the Central District.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **26** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	16
Telecommunications	5
Water/Sewer	4
Natural Gas	1



Rhonda and I enjoy seeing the lights on the square each year in Canton, MS. The 2022 Canton, MS, Christmas Festival will be held nightly thru December 23rd.

Last week, the Central District received a total of **151** 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.