

January 19, 2023



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

Winter Storm Elliott Overview

The nation's regulators, utilities, grid operators, reliability coordinators and other stakeholders continue to assess the impacts of Winter Storm Elliot. While Elliot was a record setting event, the lessons learned from Winter Storm Uri in February 2021 contributed to the overall successful operation of the MISO region's bulk electric system.

Winter Storm Elliott moved into the Southern region footprint starting on December 22, 2022 and lasted through the holiday weekend until conditions improved on December 26, 2022. Actual low temperatures were much lower than forecasted in some areas, including the South. Thus, utilities across the nation experienced higher than expected system load and demand for heating, forced generation outages, and capacity shortfalls that led to numerous Energy Emergency Alerts (EEA).

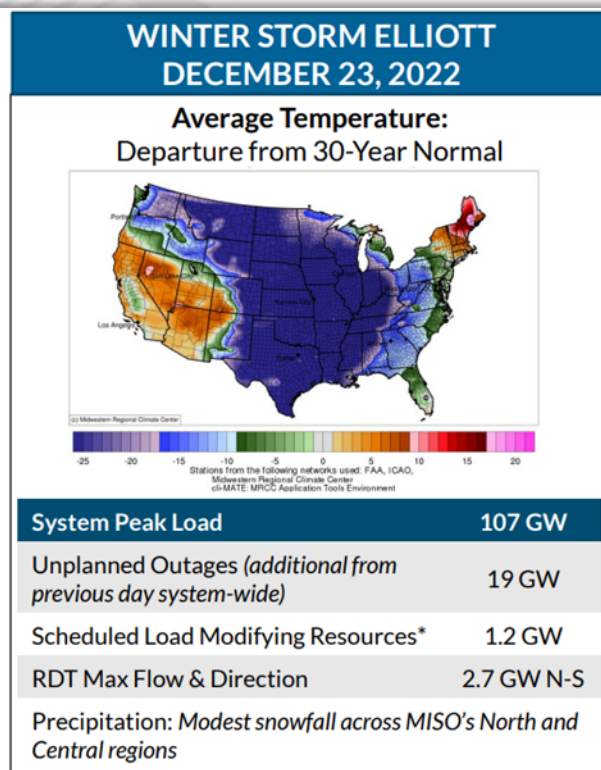
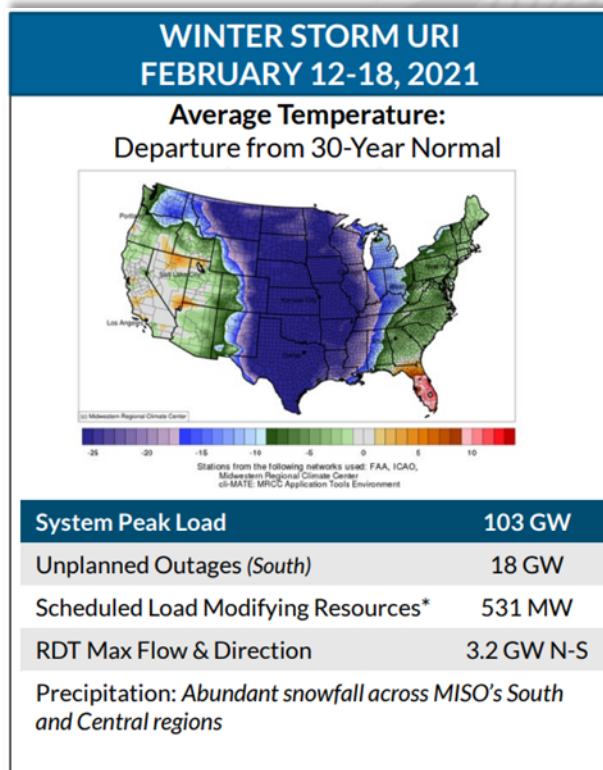


Illustration Credit: MISO

Despite the high demand for electricity in the MISO footprint, there was enough operating capacity to meet demand and export energy to neighboring systems. MISO did activate EEAs to acquire and secure the additional capacity to support other grid networks. Nearly 5000 MW of power was exported to area entities such as the Tennessee Valley Authority, Associated Electric Cooperative, and Southeastern Regional Transmission Planning.

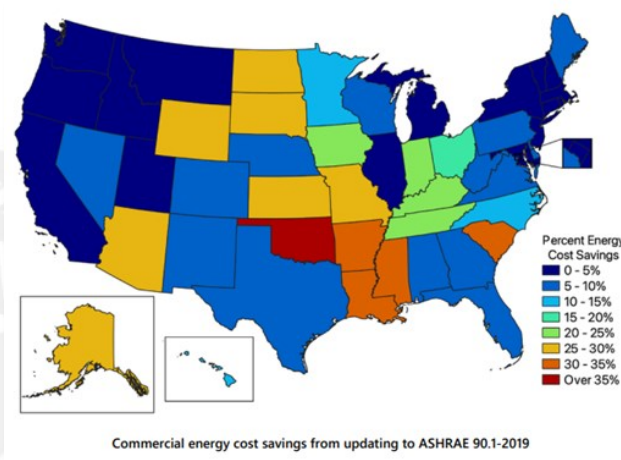


Continued...

While the network held up during Elliott, there were still challenges. Load forecasters missed badly. Natural gas fuel supplies to generators was insufficient at times as total U.S. demand for natural gas set a new record on December 23, 2022. But, all in all, better winter preparedness and weather-specific drills led to improved operator awareness, better decisions and coordination, and the ability to adjust to changing risks.

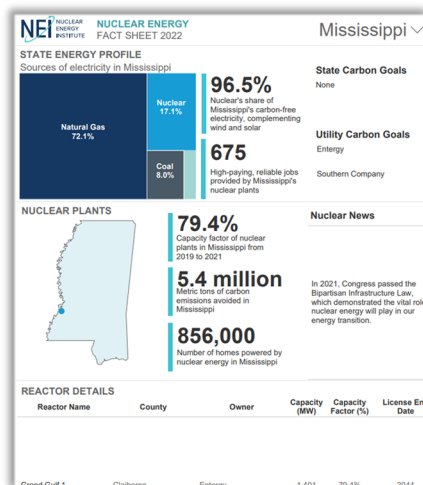
Mississippi's Opportunity to Cut Energy Costs by Updating Building Codes

States could cut energy use in new buildings by as much as a third and significantly reduce utility bills by updating building energy codes. A [new analysis](#) from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) identifies the states best positioned to take advantage of federal funds to update and implement building energy codes. Building energy codes set requirements for building construction, such as insulation, windows, or HVAC systems. Stronger codes reduce energy use in new buildings and thus cut utility costs and emissions from burning fuels in the buildings and from power plants that provide the buildings with electricity.



While some municipalities have adopted codes at the local level, Mississippi lacks statewide building codes. And frankly, there has been little appetite for improving building energy efficiency outside of the utility-administered, customer-funded energy efficiency programs mandated by the MPSC. Freeing up energy resources allows more economic development at less cost to customers!

If Mississippi were to adopt the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), residents could see cost savings up to 24.9%, the 11th best percentage savings in the U.S. By adopting the ASHRAE 90.1-2019 commercial energy code, businesses could achieve cost savings of up to 33.2%, the 2nd best percent in the nation! Of course, these savings will not be achieved by adoption alone. An effective implementation and compliance program must be established.



Nuclear Facts – U.S. and Mississippi

Across the United States, 92 nuclear reactors at 53 locations across 28 states power tens of millions of homes and businesses. The Nuclear Energy Institute's U.S. and state factsheets allow you to explore all fifty state energy portfolios and utility pledges to reduce carbon emissions. Under the [U.S. Dashboard](#), you will see that the average capacity factor of U.S. nuclear plants is over 92% and accounts for over 50% of carbon-free electricity generation. At the [Mississippi Fact Sheet](#), you will learn that nuclear accounts for 17.1% of generation capacity and 96.5% of the state's carbon free electricity. Grand Gulf is the state's lone nuclear generation station. Both Entergy Corporation and Southern Company have announced corporate-wide carbon emission reduction goals.



Heroes of the Storm

A new book, [Heroes of the Storm: How Electricity's Value is Built and Maintained](#), captures the stories and voices of those that work to keep the power on and those that respond after the storms have passed. Available in digital format, this Public Utilities Fortnightly book project was made possible by the generous support of Ameren, the American Public Power Association, Dentons, and the Edison Electric Institute. Check it out!



Legislation Tracker

On Tuesday, January 3, the [Mississippi State Legislature](#) began the 2023 Regular Legislative session. The deadline to make a request to draft a bill is today, January 11, 2023, and the deadline to introduce new bills is January 16, 2023. The House and Senate continue to drop bills for public review at a rapid pace. The Commission will be watching numerous bills that could impact customers, certain utilities or the MPSC. This week we bring attention to the following:

House

[HB 871](#) – Ad valorem tax; extend time for partial exemption and fee-in-lieu of ad valorem tax agreement for certain renewable energy projects.

[HB 944](#) – Water bills; prohibit municipalities from estimating water bills after 120 days.

[HB 986](#) – "Mississippi Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Act of 2023"; enact to authorize MTC to enter into public-private partnerships.

[HB 1044](#) – Excavators; require marking proposed excavation area with white paint, flags or stakes before notifying Mississippi 811.

[HB 1060](#) – Electric vehicles; authorize charging by non-utilities.

[HB 1061](#) – Electric transmission infrastructure; prescribe requirements for issuance of certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Senate

[SB 2338](#) – Municipal waterworks; ensure just, reasonable and transparent billing in.

[SB 2340](#) – Mississippi Water Quality Accountability Act; create.

[SB 2433](#) – Regulation of public utilities; exempt distribution of water by eligible homeowners' association to its own residents from.

[SB 2436](#) – Microgrid and Grid Resiliency Act; create.

[SB 2453](#) – ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Program; clarify that certain entities are eligible to participate in.

[SB 2492](#) – Electric vehicle charging; allow by non-utilities while maintaining consumer protections.

[SB 2494](#) – Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act; transfer enforcement authority to Attorney General's Office.

[SB 2512](#) – Counties; authorize to designate ARPA funds to rural water and sewer associations for infrastructure projects.

Please note that identification of a bill in this newsletter does not indicate support or opposition to a measure. Each bill is simply identified as an example of legislation that has been assigned to Energy, Public Utilities or other committees with oversight of these matters. Bills being tracked could and will likely change from week to week.



Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Greer Solar, LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction and operation of a 170 megawatt ("MW") alternating current ("AC") solar photovoltaic electric generation facility in **Washington County**. During construction of the project, up to 300 construction jobs will be created. To operate and maintain the facility will create up to 3 full-time equivalent jobs. The capital investment to develop and construct the Project is estimated to be approximately \$240,000,000 and the taxable value is expected to result in estimated tax revenue of \$23 million over the life of the project (20 years) to **Washington County** and the local school district.
- ✎ **Wildwood Solar, LLC** filed a [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction and operation of a 100 MW AC solar photovoltaic electric generation facility in **Tallahatchie County**. During construction of the Project, up to 300 construction jobs will be created. To operate and maintain the facility, up to 3 full-time equivalent jobs will be created. The capital investment to develop and construct the Project is estimated to be approximately \$140,000,000 and the taxable value is expected to result in estimated tax revenue of \$12 million over the life of the project (20 years) to **Tallahatchie County** and the local school district.
- ✎ **American Telecommunications Systems, Inc.** filed its [Request](#) to Voluntarily Relinquish Certificate of Authority because it has had no customers and has generated no revenue in the State since 2019.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to revise the text of the rate schedule for **Mississippi Power Company's** Environmental Compliance Overview (ECO) Plan. The [proposed revised Rate Schedule ECO-3](#) seeks to amend the annual Commission review and hearing provisions to allow flexibility and efficiency. There is no change in rates associated with this filing.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC (EML)** filed its Merchant Road Switching Station (SS) [Cut-In Project Notice](#) pursuant to Rule 7.103 of the **Commission's** Rules of Practice and Procedure. **EML** intends to install a cut-in location along [EML's](#) existing Scott SS to Pelahatchie 115 kV transmission line to connect the **Pearl River Solar Park LLC** to the transmission system at the proposed Merchant Road 115 kV Switching Station, located in [Scott County](#). The costs associated with the project are reimbursable to **EML** under the Generation interconnection Agreement between **Pearl River Solar Park**, **EML** and Midcontinent Independent System Operator. The total estimated cost of the facilities is approximately \$2.47 million.

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



The Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership held its Annual Meeting on Jan. 18. Pictured left with GJCP President & CEO Jeff Rent and 2022 Board Chair La'Verne Edney. Also, pictured below with GJCP Lifetime Achievement Award winner Jeff Good.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **36** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	26
Telecommunications	5
Natural Gas	3
Water/Sewer	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **187** 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.