

February 8, 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



HIGHLIGHTS

from the MPSC

February 7, 2023, Docket Meeting

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on February 7, 2023, at 10:00 am CT to consider the following [agenda](#) items:

- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving **Mississippi Power Company's** Notice of Special Contract between **Mississippi Power Company** and **Enviva Pellets Bond, LLC** for the provision of electric service to **Enviva's** facilities located at Wiggins, within **Mississippi Power Company's** certificated service area in **Stone County**.
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an [Order](#) approving **Town of Duck Hill's** amended Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to expand its natural gas service in **Grenada County**. The initial cost estimate for the project is \$1.1 million dollars. The funding is expected to be provided by a combination of Mississippi Development Authority funding and funds **Duck Hill** received from the CARES Act. There is not expected to be an impact on current base rates.



Matt Davidson, President of Atmos Energy's Mississippi Division

- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving **Atmos Energy Corporation's** Application for a CPCN to expand its natural gas service in **Grenada** and **Montgomery Counties** and to abandon an existing certificated area in **Grenada County**. There is no cost associated with this expansion of **Atmos's** service territory. This action was requested to prepare for the impact of expected growth in the area due to the economic development plans of **Grenada County**.



Ben Vance, Mississippi Power Company, Manager of Rates and Regulatory

- ☑ **The Commission** discussed and took action voting to open a docket requiring **Mississippi Power Company** to file with the **Commission** a Semi-Annual report related to and detailing their participation in the Southeast Energy Exchange Market (SEEM) which will be due to the **Commission** by January 1st



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- ☑ **The Commission** voted to request MPSC General Counsel to confer with staff and consultants to determine next steps in Docket No. 2021-AD-52: **Commission's** Docket to Investigate the Membership of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** in the **Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)** which may potentially include the scheduling of a technical conference and authorizing the Executive Director to enter an Order based on the recommendations brought forth by the General Counsel.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued Orders referring the following for hearing, report, and recommendation of an appropriate Order, or any other action necessary:
 - ☑ [Order Referring](#) the Transfer of Assets of **A.S.L. Water Association, Inc.** into **North Panola Water District** to a hearing examiner.
 - ☑ [Order Referring](#) the Petition of **Mississippi Power Company** for a CPCN Authorizing the Acquisition, Construction, and Operation of Transmission Substation and Related Facilities and Rights-Of-Way in **Stone County** to a hearing examiner.
 - ☑ [Order Referring](#) Petition of **SR Byhalia, LLC**, for a Facilities Certificate to Construct and Operate a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Marshall County** to a hearing examiner.



If you were unable to attend the Open Docket Meeting and missed the live stream, a recording of the meeting can be found [here](#).



4-County crews assist north central Mississippi co-op
Photo credit:
<https://www.facebook.com/4CountyElectric>

Winter Storm Mara Restoration

Unless you watched the news over the weekend, few people in southern and central Mississippi may be unaware that the northwest part of the state experienced freezing rain and ice accumulation that snarled travel and caused power outages. The winter weather that hit Mississippi was part of several waves of winter storms that left 400,000 without power in Texas and 82,000 without power in Arkansas. While not as severe in Mississippi, Entergy Mississippi experienced a peak outage of 12,803 customers on the afternoon of Thursday, February 2.

A workforce of approximately 1,300 vegetation and line workers, scouts, and support personnel were involved in the restoration effort and worked diligently over three days to restore service as quickly and as safely as possible in challenging conditions that brought down numerous trees and large limbs causing damage to the electric distribution network. In all, Entergy Mississippi personnel and contract workers repaired 92 damaged poles, 607 spans (approx. 30 miles) of downed wire, 29 transformers and 18 broken crossarms. All Entergy customers were restored by 10 pm on Saturday, February 4.



Nuclear Energy News

Last week marked the 25th anniversary of the date upon which the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) was to begin moving spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from reactor sites to interim consolidated storage sites in preparation for permanent geological disposal or other approved use.



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Per the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, on January 31, 1998, the DOE under federal law and by contract was to start removing SNF from the country's 74 commercial nuclear power plant sites in 35 states. So, how have things gone since 1998? Not too good.

Currently, there are 54 commercially operating nuclear power plant sites with 92 nuclear reactors in 28 U.S. states. Yet electric customers in 41 states and *all* U.S. taxpayers have contributed billions of dollars in fees and taxes to establish a national integrated program for the storage, transportation, and disposal of the nation's nuclear waste. The federal Nuclear Waste Fund carries an approximate \$46 billion balance. Since 1983, more than \$21.5 billion has been collected from electric customers and interest accumulates at approximately \$1.7 billion per year. Furthermore, U.S. taxpayers have paid more than \$10 billion in civil damages due to the federal government's failure to meet the 1998 deadline. It is estimated that the U.S. government will be required to pay an additional \$31 billion to settle liability and cover costs that utilities have spent to manage stranded SNF.

Federal government inaction has resulted in nearly 4,000 huge shielded canisters of SNF sitting at active and retired nuclear facilities across the country. While these canisters are secure and safe, this is creating a long-term financial and disposal burden for taxpayers and communities. It is past time for the federal government – both Congress and the Administration – to put forth a permanent solution and embrace technologies that will solve the current nuclear waste impasse.



Legislation Tracker

The first month of the 2023 Regular Legislative session has passed and a couple of big approaching deadlines to watch for are the reconsideration and passage of general bills and constitutional amendments originating in own house deadline on February 10, 2023, and the floor action deadline for passage of Appropriation, Tax, Bonds, or other Funding/Revenue Bills on February 22, 2023. The Commission is watching numerous bills that could impact customers, certain utilities or the MPSC. This week we highlight bills of interest and update their status as we pass the first major deadline.

House

[HB 264](#): Energy Efficiency standards on buildings; extend repealer on statute requiring certain buildings to meet. *Passed Energy Committee.*

[HB 288](#): Public Utilities Staff; authorize certain personnel to be filled by consulting contract. *Passed Public Utilities Committee.*

[HB 498](#): Municipalities allowed to establish overdue water/sewer payment programs, certain; extend program repeal date. *Passed Municipalities Committee.*

[HB 697](#): Homeowner associations that provide water to its residents, certain; prohibit PSC from providing certain regulation of. *Passed Public Utilities Committee.*

[HB 698](#): Municipal water, wastewater and sewer services; require equity-based billing based on use of. *Passed Public Utilities Committee.*

[HB 809](#): Executive Director of Public Utilities Staff; remove Public Service Commission from the process of appointing. *Passed Public Utilities Committee.*

[HB 848](#): Mississippi Digital Asset Mining Act; create. *Passed House Ways and Means Committee.*

[HB 986](#): "Mississippi Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Act of 2023"; enact to authorize MTC to enter into public-private partnerships. *Passed Transportation and Ways and Means Committee.*

[HB 1060](#): Electric vehicles; authorize charging by non-utilities. *Passed Public Utilities Committee.*

[HB 1061](#): Electric transmission infrastructure; prescribe requirements for issuance of certificate of public convenience and necessity. *Passed Public Utilities Committee.*

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[HB 1067](#): Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Act; create. *Passed Public Utilities Committee.*

[HB 1108](#): Rural water associations; authorize those providing sewer services to participate in the ARPA Rural Water Association Infrastructure Grant Program. *Passed Conservation and Water Resources Committee.*

[HB 1213](#): Water Infrastructure Grant Program; DEQ shall give priority to applicants not receiving sufficient funding in first round grants. *Passed Conservation and Water Resources Committee.*

[HB 1225](#): Telephone solicitation; bring forward provisions of law relating to. *Passed Public Utilities Committee.*

Senate

[SB 2102](#): Impending emergency excavation; define, establish advance notice requirements and require premarking for. *Passed Senate; Transmitted to House*

[SB 2232](#): Community water and wastewater facility system or solid waste program; reduce authorized interim period without certified operator. *Passed Energy Committee.*

[SB 2338](#): Municipal waterworks; ensure just, reasonable and transparent billing in. *Transmitted to House.*

[SB 2339](#): Provision of law establishing energy efficiency standards for building construction; extend repealer on. *Passed Energy Committee.*

[SB 2341](#): Electric transmission infrastructure; maintain state jurisdiction over integrity of. *Passed Energy Committee.*

[SB 2433](#): Regulation of public utilities; exempt distribution of water by eligible homeowners' association to its own residents from. *Passed Senate Finance Committee.*

[SB 2492](#): Electric vehicle charging; allow by non-utilities while maintaining consumer protections. *Passed Senate; Transmitted to House.*

[SB 2494](#): Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act; transfer enforcement authority to Attorney General's Office. *Passed Energy Committee.*

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

[SB 2562](#): Transportation; allow public and private partnerships to establish electric vehicle charging stations. *Passed Highways and Transportation Committee.*

[SB 2698](#): Ad valorem tax; extend fee-in-lieu qualifying period for renewable energy project. *Passed Senate; Transmitted to House.*

Appropriation, Tax, Bonds or other Funding/Revenue Bills (Deadline for action is Feb. 22)

[HB 303](#): Electric vehicle tax; exempt low speed electric vehicles.

[HB 331](#): Helping Mississippians Afford Broadband Act; create.

[HB 335](#): income tax; allow credit for investments in qualified clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property.

[HB 378](#): Electric/hybrid vehicles; repeal sections of law authorizing taxes.

[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 1254](#): Bonds; authorize issuance to assist City of Jackson with making repairs and improvements to water and sewer systems.

[HB 1331](#): Appropriation; Town of Alligator for cost of the 2022 water and sewer improvement project.

[HB 1338](#): Bonds; authorize issuance to assist Town of Alligator with water and sewer project.

[HB 1353](#): Bonds; authorize issuance for construction of a separate water system for Jackson State University.

[HB 1453](#): Appropriation; DFA for distribution to counties and municipalities for water/sewer infrastructure projects authorized under ARPA.



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[SB 2020](#): Electric/hybrid vehicle tax; repeal sections of law authorizing.

[SB 2036](#): Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds; FY2024 appropriation to City of Rolling Fork for improvement of water system.

[SB 2037](#): FY2024 appropriation to Village of Eden for improvement of water and sewer system.

[SB 2909](#): General Fund; FY2024 City of Jackson Water Reimbursement Grant Program.

[SB 2911](#): General Fund; FY2024 to the Town of Alligator to improve its water and sewer infrastructure.

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 change from week to week.

Hearing Update

The Commission filed an [Order Setting Hearing](#) in regard to the Notices of Intent of **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** to Establish State-Wide Rates for Water and Wastewater Services in Its Certificated Areas in the State. The hearing will be held on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in the **Commission** Hearing Room, 1st Floor, Woolfolk State Office Building, 501 N. West Street, Jackson. Monday, February 27, 2023, will be reserved for public comments and Tuesday, February 28, 2023, will be reserved for the evidentiary hearing. The following sewer systems in the following counties in the Central District will be impacted:

- **Warren County**: Brookwood Place Subdivision; Camden Place Subdivision; Fairways Subdivision; Forest Cove Subdivision; Leland Pointe Subdivision; Openwood Plantation; Pecan Village Subdivision; Pine Woods MHP; Ring Road Subdivision; Silver Leaf Development; The Grove Subdivision; The Trace Subdivision
- **Lauderdale**: King Farms Subdivision
- **Hinds**: Ridge Park; Wakeland Hills; and Wildwood Subdivisions

Last Week at the MPSC

- ☞ **Atmos Energy Corporation** made its [Compliance Filing](#) of its customers' and the **Atmos Energy Corporation's** charitable contributions as required by the **Commission's** March 23, 2011, Order in Docket 2010-AD-421. The attached schedule shows all "Sharing the Warmth" customer donations collected by the voluntary donation mechanism on customer bills each month for the year 2022.
- ☞ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed a [Mid-Cycle Supply-Side Update](#) to its 2021 Integrated Resource Plan. The Mid-Cycle Supply-Side Update ("Mid-Cycle" or "Update") is intended to update the **Commission** about any material changes to the supply plan that were not identified through the previous IRP. It does not affect or relieve **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** of its separate obligation to obtain regulatory approval for the acquisition of any resources that may be described in the Update. Rule 29 requires that at approximately the Mid-Cycle of the electric utility's three year planning cycle, a written report shall be filed by the utility describing any material changes to its IRP, including material changes in economic assumptions (e.g., future natural gas price forecasts or alternative technology costs), environmental rules and regulations, regional transmission organization rules, or forecasted load requirements. The Update should also include any previously undisclosed capacity needs in the Mid-Cycle and support such with good cause explanation.

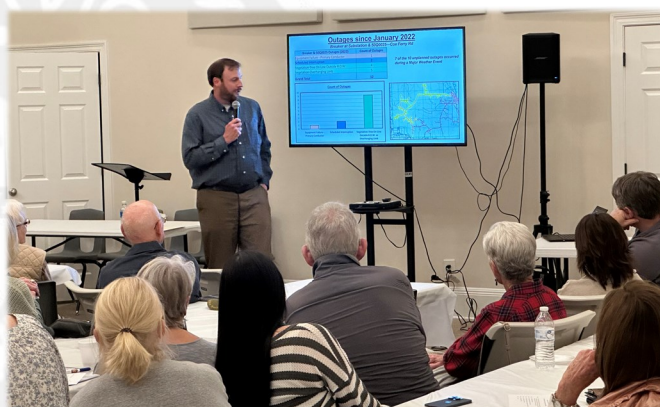


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- ✎ The Commission filed an [Order of Continuance](#) in regards to the **Siwell Utility Co., Inc.** and **Rolling Hills Wastewater, Inc.** Show Cause Hearing Determining Whether Respondents Are In Violation of Certain Statutes Governed by the **Commission**.
- ✎ **Bigger Pie Forum** filed Motions to Intervene in the Petitions of [Greer Solar, LLC](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing the Construction and Operation of a Solar Electric Generating and Storage Facility in **Washington County**, and [Wildwood Solar, LLC](#), for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing the Construction And Operation of a Solar Electric Generating and Storage Facility In **Tallahatchie County**.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

SNAPS



Last night, Davis Gates (Central District Legal and Policy Advisor) and I attended a community forum at the Methodist Church in Flora where representatives from Entergy Mississippi LLC met with residents to discuss their efforts to reduce outages, improve reliability and address customer communication concerns in the area.



I had the opportunity to meet with CenterPoint Energy's new Vice-President of Operations in Mississippi and Louisiana, Bo Murphy. A Canton native, Bo will be returning to Mississippi while holding his position. Our office will continue working with CenterPoint Energy to keep costs reasonable, service reliable and improving customer service for natural gas customers in the Central District.





CORE Pipeline Safety Training for First Responders and Operators



We kicked February off last week back at the annual CORE Pipeline Safety Training for first responders and operators, hosted by the The Paradigm Alliance, Inc. in Vicksburg. The Mississippi 811, Inc. team and Mr. Bill Greenwalt delivered presentations that were excellent refreshers. I encourage consumers to learn more about pipeline safety, what to do in the urgent event of a leak and who your pipeline operators are in your area. Also, remember to always call Mississippi 811, Inc. before starting any digging activity.



I also had the opportunity to meet Douglas White, the Area Supervisor for Enbridge. Enbridge is the natural gas fuel supplier to the Hinds Generation Station, [whom we toured earlier last week.](#)



Mr. Bill Greenwalt, The Paradigm Alliance, Inc.



Last week, we visited with Mr. Mark Jones and Ms. Mandy Harris at [V105.5 Vicksburg](#) to share an update of important matters happening at the Commission. The radio station is housed in a beautiful historic home in downtown that was built in 1874. We appreciate their hospitality and look forward to visiting again soon!



FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



I enjoyed two great visits with Vicksburg Mayor George Flaggs (pictured left) and Ward 2 Alderman, Alex Monsour (pictured right).



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



The total amount of construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of January is approximately **\$2,033,000**.

"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.



The MS Poultry Association and the MS Egg Board hosted is annual "Make Your Own Omelet" event last week. Mississippi chef/author/entrepreneur Deborah Hunter led the demonstration of how to properly prepare an omelet. *Delish!*



Pictured with Mark Leggett, President of the Mississippi Poultry Association



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **30** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	22
Telecommunications	3
Water/Sewer	4
Natural Gas	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **137** 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.