

February 16, 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*



## ***Summary and Scenes of the NARUC Winter Policy Summit***

**F**or the past four days, I have been in Washington, DC for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners's Winter Policy Summit. The Policy Summit comes as state and federal regulators are confronted with a wide range of issues from grid security to water quality to energy resource adequacy to federal funding opportunities. Each day was packed with various committee meetings, commissioner conversations and general sessions for the purpose of identifying key actions that enhance the customer experience, promote economic development and maintain affordable services. Below is a summary of the committees and boards on which I participate.

The summit started with meetings of the Committee on Nuclear Issues/Waste Disposal. Advanced nuclear reactors are expected to play a vital role in helping the U.S. utility sector diversify its energy portfolio, achieve emission reduction goals, and provide stable, affordable electricity around the clock. Many see advanced nuclear (also labeled as small modular reactors) as an ideal complement and supplement to traditional and renewable energy resources.

Among those utilities looking to take a leadership role in advanced nuclear technology is the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). TVA CEO Jeff Lyash was on hand to discuss TVA's new nuclear program, partnership opportunities and its goals for deployment of advanced nuclear across TVA's service territory, including northeast Mississippi. TVA currently generates 39% of its power from its seven nuclear units. Its goal is to deploy up to 20 advanced nuclear units by 2050 in order to achieve its net zero carbon target.



*Pictured with TVA CEO  
Jeff Lyash*



*Pictured with Katrina  
McMurrian of NWSC and  
Kristy Hartman of NEI*

We also heard updates from the U.S. Department of Energy, NARUC Center for Partnerships and Innovation, Nuclear Energy Institute and Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition. Of note, NARUC and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) will soon announce the launch of the Advanced Nuclear State Collaborative.

The Committee on Critical Infrastructure received a briefing from the North American Energy Reliability Corporation (NERC) Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC). The E-ISAC gathers, analyzes, and shares cyber and physical threat alerts, warnings, advisories, notices, and vulnerability assessments.

Mississippi Public Service Commission • (601) 961-5430 • Toll-Free: (800) 356-6430 • [www.psc.ms.gov](http://www.psc.ms.gov)



*Continued...*

Furthermore, they coordinate and communicate mitigation strategies with stakeholders across sectors, including at the regulatory level. These engagements help commissioners understand how to address any gaps in federal standards and local responses to increase resiliency and reduce risk. The national grid experienced 163 physical impacts in 2022. Most impacts were the result of severe weather events and animal-caused outages. However, some high profile outages were caused by extremist groups or criminals.

The Entergy Regional State Committee (ERSC) met to receive updates from representatives of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Organization of MISO States (OMS). I was pleased to represent Mississippi on this board along with representatives from Arkansas, City of New Orleans, Louisiana and Texas.



*Pictured with Arkansas  
Commissioner Doyle Webb*

The Policy Summit is also a great opportunity to connect with new commissioners, such as Doyle Webb of Arkansas.

The Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment explored how and why large companies and corporations are pursuing investments in renewable energy and how these clean energy purchases are tracked and valued by consumers and shareholders. This committee also explored how utility regulators can build relationships with state energy offices and state transportation departments to build understanding and collaboration in the siting, funding and operations of electric vehicle charging station plans. The infrastructure necessary to serve electric vehicle charging station and load must be located strategically to avoid

costly upgrades to the grid network.

The Southeast Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners gathered to hear updates on its Summer Education Conference and what key issue areas will be explored. The group discussed Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) state program reauthorization requirements and needed action by Commissions and resources to assist states and Commissions in disaster readiness and response.

The Organization of MISO States (OMS) Board of Directors met for its February monthly meeting. As the Mississippi representative on this board, I am working to ensure that proposed transmission projects in the MISO South region meet necessary criteria, provide benefits to a range of stakeholders, and project costs are allocated in a reasonable and responsible manner. We will be reviewing resource adequacy matters and how thermal and non-thermal generation resources are accredited for the purposes of margin reserve planning and resource dispatchability. I have also recently taken on the role of Strategic Priority Liaison for Distributed Energy Resources and related matters for OMS.







*Continued...*

I sat in on the Joint FERC-State Task Force for Transmission Expansion and the NARUC Board of Directors meetings. These meetings provide insight into the relationships between state and federal regulatory agencies and how each navigate policy and politics while staying focused on the public interest. Managing different priorities is not an easy task, but it is necessary to keep communications open.



By no means are the topics above the only issues discussed at the Summit. There were whole track sessions on water, natural gas, electricity, coal, telecommunications, pipeline safety, energy efficiency and much more. Unfortunately, being in meetings from morning to night does not allow much, if any, time for sightseeing. But I did make a quick outing to capture some pics of notable sights, including the White House, Washington Monument and Department of the Treasury.



## Natural Gas Prices Continue to Fall and That's Good News for Consumers

The natural gas price at the U.S. benchmark Henry Hub declined by 41%, or \$2.26 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), in January 2023 compared with December 2022,

according to reports from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (USEIA). The price decline was driven by warmer-than-average temperatures across the U.S. that reduced natural gas consumption for space heating and by increased natural gas production. This past January was the warmest January since 2006. The month experienced 16% fewer heating degree days than the 10-year average. As a result, natural gas consumption in the residential and commercial sectors, combined, was 15% lower than the five-year (2018-22) average for January.

Dry natural gas production in January averaged 11% more (at 100.2 Bcf/d) than the five-year average and was up 5% from last January. This strong production combined with less consumption in January reduced natural gas withdrawals from storage by 55%. Natural gas in underground storage in the Lower 48 states as of January 27, 2023, was 7% higher (at 2,583 Bcf) than the five-year average. Based on these data points and projected consumption and production of natural gas, the USEIA forecasts the natural gas price at the Henry Hub will average \$3.40/MMBtu in 2023 and exhibit price stability over the next two years.





## Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **DISH Wireless, LLC** filed an [Application](#) for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in the State of Mississippi. The Company seeks ETC designation for the limited purpose of providing Lifeline service to low income customers under the brand name "Gen Mobile" via service plans currently supported by AT&T and T-Mobile's networks. Dish Wireless is currently building out its own advanced 5G network.
- ✎ **The Commission** filed an [Order](#) approving **Mississippi Power Company's** continuation of its Small Business Redevelopment (SBR) Rider.
- ✎ **The Commission** also issued an [Order](#) approving **Mississippi Power Company's** continuation of its Large Business Redevelopment (LBR) Rider.
- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its [Construction Notice](#) and other information pertaining to the Highway 12 Ackerman Loop Project located in **Choctaw County**. The Supplemental Growth Rider project is necessary to install approximately 9,300 feet of 4-inch steel pipe along W. Main Ave, Highway 12 and PCA Road in Ackerman. This main will create a loop, which will aid in providing the required gas needed to serve Southeast Timber Products. This project will also include the replacement of two existing regulator stations and one existing meter.
- ✎ **The Public Utilities Staff** prepared and filed the Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment Audit Report for the period October 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022 for the following entities: [Atmos Mississippi](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire MS](#)
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Notice](#) of the 2023 System Restoration Rider (SRR) Filing. For 2023, the **Mississippi Power Company** proposes a zero (\$0) change in the current rates for SRR. By year-end 2023, **Mississippi Power Company's** ending Property Damage Reserve Balance is projected to be \$48,747,779. This amount is determined by adding \$11,705,610 for the 2023 Property Damage Reserve accrual to the December 31, 2022, actual Property Damage Reserve balance of \$37,042,169.
- ✎ **Southern Cross Transmission LLC** filed its [Supplemental Petition](#) for Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessity. The Project is an approximately 320-mile long, ± 500-600kV bi-directional, HVDC electric transmission line project that will connect the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to the electric grid covered by the SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC) within the Eastern Interconnection, including the energy market of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) system. The Mississippi Transmission Line portion of the Project as proposed will enter Mississippi in **Issaquena County**. From there, the transmission line is proposed to extend for approximately 122 miles across portions of eight (8) Mississippi counties (**Issaquena, Washington, Sharkey, Humphreys, Holmes, Carroll, Montgomery and Choctaw**) and terminate in **Choctaw County** with the Mississippi Converter Station. Adjacent to the Mississippi Converter Station will be a new, 500kVac switching station which will accommodate a connection to the MISO South system at Entergy Mississippi's Wolf Creek Substation via a short AC transmission line.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Change Rates to Implement a New Rate Schedule and Related Agreements. As a result of the revised Mississippi Distributed Generation Interconnection Rule and Order, the **Commission** directed **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** to make tariff filings establishing distributed energy facility incentive programs and Solar for Schools offerings. **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** has filed, in addition to their Notice, routine change in rates to incorporate revisions consistent with the current Rule and its amendments [Schedule NEM-2](#), and a red-line showing changes to the schedule as compared to [Schedule NEM-1](#). **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** also filed three separate [Interconnection Agreements](#): a Standard Interconnection Application and Agreement for Residential Distributed Generation Facilities for systems 20 kW or less; a Standard Interconnection Application and Agreement for Non-Residential Distributed Generation Facilities for 20 - 500 kW systems; and a Standard Interconnection Agreement for Non-Residential Distributed Generation Facilities for 500 kW -2MW systems.





*Continued...*

- ☞ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** also filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to implement a Public K-12 Solar for Schools Rate Schedule SFS-1 ([Schedule SFS-1](#)). As part of the Public K-12 Solar for Schools Program filing, **Entergy Mississippi** also submitted two separate [Agreements](#): a Solar for Schools Agreement; and an Agreement for Interconnection and Purchased Power and Environmental Attributes from a Solar for Schools Resource, which **Entergy Mississippi** intends to incorporate the requirements of the rules as referenced in Schedule SFS-1.
- ☞ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Change Rates for the Net Energy Metering Rate. This Notice of Intent seeks to implement the proposed Rate Schedule [RENM-2](#). In addition, **Mississippi Power Company** proposes to establish a new Renewable Energy Net Metering Incentive Programs Rate Schedule [RENM-I](#) to establish the Low-to-Moderate Income Energy Independence Incentive Program and the Residential Demand Response Battery Incentive Program. **Mississippi Power Company** also submitted a copy of its proposed [Distributed Generator Interconnection Procedures](#) and a copy of the Revised [Level 1](#) (20kW and less), [Level 2](#) (2MW and less), and [Level 3 Pre-Application](#) for Distributed Generator Interconnection Application.
- ☞ **Mississippi Power Company** also filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Establish a Solar for Schools Rate Schedule and also submitted a copy of its proposed [Solar for Schools Rate Schedule SFS](#). Third-party electric generators will be permitted to enter into a Solar for Schools Power Purchase Agreement (Exhibit A of Rate Schedule SFS) with **Mississippi Power Company** so long as a compliant Solar for Schools Agreement (Exhibit B of Rate Schedule SFS) is in effect with a participating public K-12 school district that is an existing retail customer of **Mississippi Power Company**.
- ☞ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) of its 2023 Environmental Compliance Overview Plan (ECO) Filing. The impact on a residential customer with monthly usage of 1,000 kWh will be a decrease of \$0.04 per month.

## Legislation Tracker

The mid-point of the 2023 Regular Legislative session has passed and the next approaching deadline to watch for is 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 update their status.

### **House**

- [HB 264](#): Energy Efficiency standards on buildings; extend repealer on statute requiring certain buildings to meet. *Referred to Senate Energy*
- [HB 288](#): Public Utilities Staff; authorize certain personnel to be filled by consulting contract. *Referred to Senate Energy*
- [HB 698](#): Municipal water, wastewater and sewer services; require equity-based billing based on use of. *Referred to Senate Energy*
- [HB 809](#): Executive Director of Public Utilities Staff; remove Public Service Commission from the process of appointing. *Referred To Senate Accountability, Efficiency, Transparency*
- [HB 986](#): "Mississippi Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Act of 2023"; enact to authorize MTC to enter into public-private partnerships. *Referred To Senate Highways and Transportation; Senate Accountability, Efficiency, Transparency*
- [HB 1060](#): Electric vehicles; authorize charging by non-utilities. *Referred To Senate Energy*
- [HB 1061](#): Electric transmission infrastructure; prescribe requirements for issuance of certificate of public convenience and necessity. *Referred To Senate Energy*
- [HB 1067](#): Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Act; create. *Referred To Senate Finance*

**FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE**



*Continued...*

[HB 1108](#): Rural water associations; authorize those providing sewer services to participate in the ARPA Rural Water Association Infrastructure Grant Program. *Referred To Senate Accountability, Efficiency, Transparency*

[HB 1213](#): Water Infrastructure Grant Program; DEQ shall give priority to applicants not receiving sufficient funding in first round grants. *Referred To Senate Accountability, Efficiency, Transparency*

[HB 1225](#): Telephone solicitation; bring forward provisions of law relating to. *Referred To Senate Energy*

**Senate**

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

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

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

[SB 2341](#): Electric transmission infrastructure; maintain state jurisdiction over integrity of. *Transmitted To House*

[SB 2433](#): Regulation of public utilities; exempt distribution of water by eligible homeowners' association to its own residents from. *Referred To House Public Utilities*

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

[SB 2494](#): Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act; transfer enforcement authority to Attorney General's Office. *Referred To House Public Utilities*

[SB 2512](#): Counties; authorize to designate ARPA funds to rural water and sewer associations for infrastructure projects. *Referred To House Public Utilities*

[SB 2562](#): Transportation; allow public and private partnerships to establish electric vehicle charging stations. *Referred To House Transportation*

[SB 2698](#): Ad valorem tax; extend fee-in-lieu qualifying period for renewable energy project. *Referred to House Ways and Means.*

**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 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.

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

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

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.





# CENTRAL DISTRICT

# SNAPS



The 2023 Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo's Junior Sale of Champions had a record turnout to see those young people and their 48 champion animals. I was proud to join Commissioner Andy Gipson and others last Thursday to help purchase the Champion Hereford Hog and Champion/Mississippi Bred Champion Lamb. Congratulations to Will Smith and Leighton and Laura Horton for the excellence job they did in raising and caring for these fine animals.



We enjoyed our visit at SuperTalk Mississippi on MidDays with Gerard Gibert last Wednesday to discuss legislation in relation to the Commission. If you missed it and want to hear how our conversation went, chime on in here--> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwQI\\_zBfsXs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwQI_zBfsXs)



Reminder: Our office will be closed Monday, February 20th in observance of President's Day. We will reopen Tuesday, February 21st at 8 a.m.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **17** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	15
Telecommunications	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **155** 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.*