

February 1, 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

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Where Does Your Energy Come From?

Touring the Hinds Generation Station



Over the past couple of years, this newsletter has taken you on a tour of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, the Plant Ratcliffe Energy Facility and a couple solar installations. These electric generation facilities represent a diverse portfolio of assets - that when combined with other generators around the state and region - provide Mississippians with reliable, affordable energy resources. Today, we are taking you on a tour of the Hinds Generation Station located in the northwest part of Jackson, MS.

If you travel along Interstate 220 and look to the north just over the rooftops of the Cherokee Brick facility, you will see two large gray exhaust stacks rising above the tree line. Nestled between Interstate 220 and the Natchez Trace Parkway on the west end of Beasley Road is Entergy Mississippi LLC's Hinds Generation Station.

Originally commissioned in 2001 and known as the KGen Hinds LLC, Entergy Mississippi completed the purchase of the facility in 2012 for \$206 million. The acquisition resulted in the procurement of a 2x1 natural gas-fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant capable of producing up to 515 MW, known as Hinds Unit 1. The two GE gas turbines are rated at 165 MW each. The exhaust from the gas turbines heats demineralized water to create high pressure steam that is then fed into a single steam turbine rated at 185 MW.



In 2016, Entergy Mississippi added a 500 kW ground-mounted, thin-film solar array that tracks the sun's movement throughout the day. The installation was part of solar pilot project that helped Entergy Mississippi study the economics and feasibility of solar generation. The power from the solar array is fed directly into the local distribution network.

In 2019, Entergy Mississippi installed and placed in service a GE LM2500+G4 combustion turbine (CT) rated at 29 MW of peaking capacity in summer conditions, known as Hinds Unit 2.



Continued...

The power from Hinds Unit 1 and Hinds Unit 2 is routed to the Lakeover Substation located just west of the Hinds Generation Station. Transmission lines rated at 500 kV, 230 kV and 115 kV travel from Lakeover Substation to other substations and then to customers throughout Central Mississippi delivering reliable, affordable energy. The Hinds Generation Station is an environmentally responsible energy resource and makes the area attractive for new business and industry. See more pics from our tour in the Central District Snaps.



Legislation Tracker

The first month of the 2023 Regular Legislative session has passed and the deadline for committees to report out general bills and constitutional amendments was yesterday, Tuesday, January 31, 2023. As a result, many bills died in committee in the House and Senate chambers. 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 19](#): Supreme Court districts; bring forward. Died in Committee.

[HB 30](#): Public Service Commission; require to mandate annual filings by rural water associations. Died in Committee.

[HB 38](#): Administrative Procedures Act; amend to require proposed agency rules to be approved by the state auditor. Died in Committee.

[HB 149](#): Joint Legislative Study Committee on Electrification of Transportation; create. Died in Committee.

[HB 178](#): Electric Power Association Law; bring forward entirely and amend election provisions of. Died in Committee.

[HB 263](#): Municipalities; extend repealer on authority to create program addressing delinquent customer water bills. Died in Committee.

[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 465](#): Emergency communications districts; require to implement text-to-911 services by a certain date. Died in 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 835](#): Utility shutoffs; revise Governor's authority regarding. Died in Committee.

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

[HB 885](#): Mississippi Emergency Communications Act; create. Died in Committee.

[HB 944](#): Water bills; prohibit municipalities from estimating water bills after 120 days. Died in Committee.

[HB 945](#): Water bills; prohibit certain municipalities from estimating water bills after 120 days. Died in Committee.

[HB 946](#): Power lines; prohibit a person from placing objects on. Died in Committee.

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Continued...

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 1044: Excavators; require to mark proposed excavation area with white paint, flags or stakes before notifying Mississippi 811. *Died in 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.*

HB 1067: Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Act; create. *Passed Public Utilities Committee.*

HB 1068: Water Quality Accountability Act; create. *Passed Conservation and Water Resources Committee.*

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

HB 1109: ARPA funds; counties may spend revenue loss category of those funds projects of rural water associations and water/sewer authorities. *Died in Committee.*

HB 1185: ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Program; clarify that certain entities are eligible to participate in. *Died in Committee.*

HB 1198: Microgrid and Grid Resiliency Act; create. *Died in Committee.*

HB 1199: Efficiency standards; extend repealer on statute requiring certain buildings to meet. *Died in 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.*

HB 1292: ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Program; clarify that certain entities are eligible to participate in. *Died in Committee.*

HB 1470: State employees; provide for pay raise based on the amount of their annual salaries. *Died in Committee.*

Senate

SB 2043: State agencies; notify Legislature of proposed rule adoption. *Died in Committee.*

SB 2102: Impending emergency excavation; define, establish advance notice requirements and require premarking for. *Passed Energy Committee.*

SB 2143: Municipally owned utilities; authorize to accept electronic payments and to absorb transaction fees in its rate base. *Died in Committee.*

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. *Passed Senate floor vote; held on motion to reconsider.*

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

SB 2340: Mississippi Water Quality Accountability Act; create. *Died in Committee.*

SB 2341: Electric transmission infrastructure; maintain state jurisdiction over integrity of. *Passed Energy Committee.*

SB 2432: MS Municipality & County Water Infrastructure Grant Program Act; amend to clarify eligibility of rural water associations. *Died in 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 2436: Microgrid and Grid Resiliency Act; create. *Died in Committee.*

SB 2437: Mississippi Water Quality Accountability Act; create. *Died in Committee.*

SB 2450: Open Meetings Act; bring forward for purposes of possible amendment. *Died in Committee.*

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Continued...

SB 2453: ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Program; clarify that certain entities are eligible to participate in. Died in Committee.

SB 2492: Electric vehicle charging; allow by non-utilities while maintaining consumer protections. Passed Energy Committee.

SB 2494: Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act; transfer enforcement authority to Attorney General's Office. Passed Energy Committee.

SB 2504: Elections; prohibit incumbent candidates from appearing in publicly funded ads leading up to statewide general elections. Died in Committee.

SB 2512: Counties; authorize to designate ARPA funds to rural water and sewer associations for infrastructure projects. Passed Accountability, Efficiency, Transparency Committee.

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 Finance Committee.

SB 2818: Jackson Water Reimbursement Grant Program; establish. Died in Committee.

SB 2831: Pearl River Valley Water Supply District; add two board members from the City of Jackson. Died in Committee.

SB 2856: Open meetings; revise accessibility to information on meeting times, agenda and minutes. Died in Committee.

SB 2866: Administrative Procedures Act; amend to require agencies to solicit public comment in advance of filing. Died in Committee.

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 1059: Broadband equipment speed; increase to FCC requirement regarding ad valorem tax exemption.

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.

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.



Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Yokena-Jeff Davis Water District** filed Revised Documents for its supplemental certificate filing. The following documents were modified to remove an area currently being served by Fisher Ferry: [Warren County Map](#); [Legal Description](#); [General Description of Facilities](#); [Assured and Proposed Customers](#); [Cost Estimate](#); [Plans](#); [MSDH Approval](#); [Engineer Testimony](#); [Board President Testimony](#); [Certificate Area Map](#)
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its Rule 7.103 [Notice](#) of a project where it intends to install a second 40 MVA transformer, main breaker, and associated electrical equipment at the 115 kV Vicksburg Openwood Substation owned by **Entergy Mississippi**. The "Vicksburg Openwood Substation Transformer Addition Project" will enhance reliability and growth opportunities in **Warren County** by improving distribution load serving capabilities and reducing distribution load at risk.
- ✎ **Cooperative Energy** filed its [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to authorize **Cooperative Energy** to construct, maintain and operate a single circuit 69 kV electric transmission line and new GOAB, which are located in **Stone County**.
- ✎ **The Public Utilities Staff** prepared and filed monthly [Purchased Gas Adjustment Audit Reports](#) for the period September 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022, for **Spire Mississippi Inc.**
- ✎ **Fail Telecommunications Corporation** filed Requests for Cancellation of CLEC Certificates of the following dormant subsidiary companies it has no plans to revive: [Nexband Communications, Inc.](#); [Diamond Telephone Services, Inc.](#)
- ✎ **The Commission** issued Orders Canceling Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the following entities that have voluntarily relinquished their Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide various telecommunications service on a resale basis in the State: [American Telecommunications Systems, Inc.](#); [Nexband Communications, Inc.](#); [Diamond Telephone Services, Inc.](#)
- ✎ **Time Clock Solutions, LLC** filed its [Application](#) for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to grant it authority to provide resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services statewide.
The Commission issued an [Order Approving](#) the Compliance Tariff for **CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.**'s rate schedules for large volume, residential, and commercial customers. A minimum bill will be rendered monthly for service under this schedule in an amount not less than \$212.13 net for large volume customers, \$15.91 net for residential customers, and \$29.05 net for commercial customers.
- ✎ **The Commission** also issued an [Order Approving](#) the Compliance Tariff for **Atmos Energy Corporation**'s System Integrity Rider which is designed to collect the revenue requirement of Eligible System Integrity investments and costs, and will be subject to annual changes effective on November 1 of each year.

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS

We met with Graham Copley of Issaquena Green Power (<https://issaquenagreenpower.com/>) to discuss the potential of hydropower on the areas of the Mississippi River that border the state. The evolution in technology, industry's growing interest in hydropower's value, its role in economic development, and the opportunities it can bring to the Mississippi Delta are certainly worth following!





A Loop around **Greenville**

♥ of the Mississippi Delta



Greenville Rotary Club



Washington County Economic Alliance
Pictured: Angelica Motton (Workforce and Special Programs Coordinator), Kay Sipes (Chamber Director), and Parker England (their acting Executive Director)



David O'Bryan,
General Manager of Delta
Electric Power Association



Atmos Energy Team in Greenville.



I enjoyed sitting down and talking with Twin County EPA's manager, Tim Perkins, at their Greenville office.



We caught up with Mayor Errick Simmons to chat about the utility services in the city of Greenville and other important services provided to the citizens of the city.



Visiting the local TV station WABG/WXVT Delta News



We finished the day off visiting with Greg and Ben at TecInfo Communications of Leland. They continue to provide and expand high speed internet to many folks in the Central Delta. And they were even more excited about their new equipment!

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I caught up with members of the Leake County Board of Supervisors at the MAS Winter Meeting. From L to R: Kevin Kemp, Chip Jones, Kirby Nazary, Oliver Smith, Larry Sims

Governor Tate Reeves is escorted down the south steps of the MS Capitol to deliver his State of the State address



More from Hinds Generation Station Tour



Group sensation Chapel Hart did an AWESOME job singing the National Anthem prior to the Governor's address



Entergy and MPSC personnel prepare for a tour of the Hinds Generation Station.



They had my attention!!



Pointing out the features of the air intake system on one of the baseload gas turbines



Discussing the GE "black start" combustion turbine and generator



The Station's Control Room monitors all aspects of the facility's systems



Checking out the solar generation array at the site



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

Electric Companies	19
Telecommunications	2
Natural Gas	2
Water/Sewer	3

Last week, the Central District received a total of **157** 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.