



CHAIRMAN DANE MAXWELL
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
SOUTHERN DISTRICT

CONTACT:

Caroline Nettles

Communications Director

Caroline.nettles@psc.ms.gov

February 7, 2023

PSC Chairman Dane Maxwell Urges Commission to Reconsider Plans to Shut Down MS Power Coal Units

The PSC voted to put the current plan in place in late 2020

(JACKSON, MS) – During its monthly meeting this morning, the Mississippi Public Service Commission discussed the planned early retirement of coal Units 1 and 2 of Mississippi Power Company’s Daniel Plant in Jackson County, MS. Chairman Dane Maxwell brought this issue before the Commission to revisit the current plan to retire these units.

The plan to retire these units was voted on and passed during a Commission meeting in December of 2020. Chairman Dane Maxwell says his reason for wanting to keep the units open is the rising costs of natural gas, the importance of keeping diversity in Mississippi’s energy resources, and other impacts to the local economy.

“I have spoken numerous times about my concerns regarding the pending closure of these units,” Chairman Maxwell said. “The Commission voted on this plan when natural gas prices were under \$3, and over the past year prices have skyrocketed to over \$9 which tells me it’s time we revisit the plan.”

Rumors have spread throughout the community that the entire Plant Daniel will be shut down. However, the plan as it is currently will only shut down Unit 1 and 2. One unit is owned by NextEra Energy, the other is owned by MS Power, and both are coal-powered energy units.

“There has been a misconception in the community that the entire plant is shutting down, and that is just not the case,” Chairman Maxwell said. “I have been in constant communication with Mississippi Power and have shared my personal concerns and those of my constituents who are worried about how this will affect jobs and other aspects of our economic community in Jackson County.”

There was no official vote or action taken by the Commission during today’s meeting, but Chairman Maxwell hopes to gain the support of his fellow Commissioners as well as Mississippi Power to revisit plans to close these two units.

###
