

March 22, 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

Be a
Leak Detective



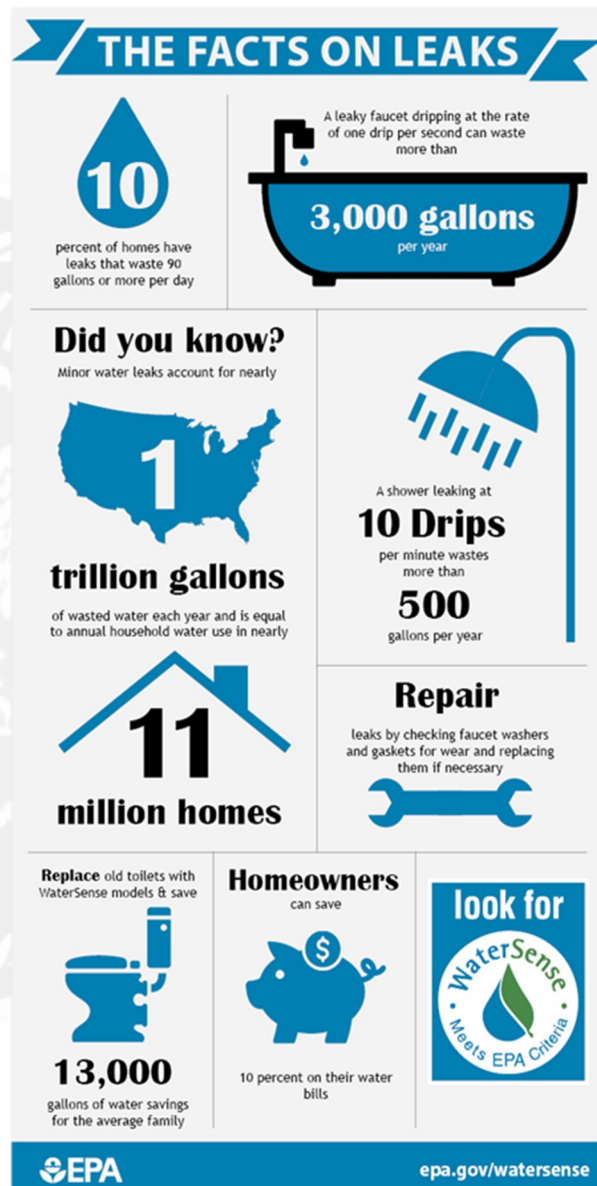
Check Your Home for Leaks to
Save Water and Save Money

It's Fix a Leak Week across the U.S. This is the time to take steps to find and fix leaks inside and outside your home to save valuable water and money all year long. Household leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide, so it is critical that customers check their piping from the water meter to the home for leaks and check all the water using appliances and fixtures for any drips.

Common types of leaks found in the home are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. These types of leaks are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools and hardware that can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills. Ten percent of homes have water leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. The average household leak can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted over the course of a year. That is the amount of water it typically takes to wash 300 loads of laundry.

To check for leaks in your home, you first need to know for sure if you are wasting water. If you are a family of four and are using more than 12,000 gallons of water per month, there is a good chance that you have one or more leaks. Also, set aside at least a two-hour time period when you know no water will be consumed. Read your meter before and after the monitoring period. If the meter changes at all, you likely have a leak.

The primary places to look for the source of a drinking water leak include the bathroom, the kitchen, the laundry or utility room, the water heater closet, the basement, outside spigots, irrigation systems, along the foundation and other locations. Check for signs of moisture or mold on walls, under cabinets, in ceilings and other hidden places.





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Use a [checklist](#) to find and fix common household leaks. And remember, leaks don't just happen at home. Keep an eye out for leaks even at your workplace and report any observed leaks to the maintenance staff.

State regulators from all across the country are joining the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners to support the EPA's Fix a Leak Week and encourage communities to help put a stop to the trillion-gallon annual water waste. See the NARUC [press release](#).

A lot of hard work goes into providing the water coming out of your tap at home and at work. As the state's population grows and new businesses enter the state, the demand for water will continue to rise. Water systems must not only provide a safe and clean water supply, they must also ensure an adequate supply of water is available to customers every day of the year. Water is a critical, essential resource. Finding and fixing water leaks will save you money, reduce water waste, and will preserve water supplies for the future.

Cooperative Energy's Plant Morrow Begins Commercial Operation

The repowered R.D. Morrow, Sr. Generating Station achieved commercial operation as an advanced-class natural gas unit last week capable of producing 572 MW of electricity for the benefit of Cooperative Energy's eleven distribution utility members. Located near Purvis, Mississippi, the

new plant operates on the site of the original 1978 coal facility. In June 2018, the Cooperative Energy Board of Directors announced a five-year plan to convert the plant from coal to natural gas due to improved efficiency and economic factors. Responsibility, reliability, and affordability were deciding factors to move forward with the



project. Now complete, the plant generates more electricity more economically and provides the operational flexibility necessary to balance the increase in renewable energy sources across the region and across the country.

The plant is powered by a Siemens 9000HL advanced-class combustion turbine technology paired with an existing steam turbine. The plant uses a heat-recovery system that utilizes the thermal energy from the new gas turbine in the existing plant thermal systems. This enables the plant to achieve the efficiency of new combined-cycle plants and reduce its previous carbon emissions by half. The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the regional transmission organization of which Cooperative Energy is a member, is now controlling and dispatching the baseload unit. See the [Press Release](#) from Cooperative Energy.



Investments In and Production From Clean Energy Generation Sets Records

The eleventh edition of the *Sustainable Energy in America Factbook* was released on March 1 and is available to download at bcse.org/factbook. The Factbook provides new data and analysis about the performance of clean energy sectors in 2022 by tracking year-on-year as well as long-term trends for the U.S. energy economy. Designed for a broad audience, the Factbook offers an insightful and in-depth look at economics, markets, and investment dynamics and technology trends. Furthermore, progress in the deployment of energy efficiency, natural gas, hydrogen, energy storage, transportation fuels and the renewable energy sectors are illustrated.

The Factbook data show that the clean energy transition continues to move forward along a path that creates economic opportunities and other benefits. Investments in clean energy generation continued to grow in 2022, even as supply chain disruptions, an international energy crisis, and rising interest rates elevated prices for key energy commodities. Of note, the U.S. added 32,000 MW of new renewable generating capacity in 2022 with contributions coming from wind, solar, biomass, waste-to-energy, geothermal and hydro. Renewables accounted for 22.7% of total US power generation in 2022 – the highest level ever. Meanwhile, demand for natural gas increased by 5.4% despite wholesale prices that were up to 52% higher than 2021. Despite the higher prices, natural gas provided 39% of U.S. power demand.

Selected high-level findings from the Factbook report includes:

- Total U.S. total energy consumption rose 2.95% year-on-year as the U.S. economy continued to rebound from the worst effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The U.S. remains the largest energy storage demand market in the world.
- U.S. “energy productivity” dipped by 1% in 2022 as energy consumption outpaced economic growth.
- Energy spending accounted for 4.6% of total U.S. personal consumption expenditures in 2022.
- Sales of electric vehicles (EVs) were up 50% over 2021.
- Total US primary energy consumption returned to pre-pandemic levels.

For more information, you can also check out the Factbook’s [Executive Summary](#) and [Key Trends](#) documents.

Legislation Tracker

Yesterday was the 78th day of the scheduled 90-day session. As of today, the Governor has already signed several bills dealing with utilities and other interests to the Commission. The adoption deadline of conference reports containing compromises of bills that passed the two chambers in differing forms for appropriation and revenue bills as well as general bills is March 27th.

House

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

[HB 698](#): Municipal water, wastewater and sewer services; require equity-based billing based on use of. *House Conferees Named (Bounds, Anderson, Yates) → Senate Conferees Named (Carter, Michel, Parks)*

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

[HB 1060](#): Electric vehicles; authorize charging by non-utilities. *Signed by Governor*

[HB 1225](#): Telephone solicitation; bring forward provisions of law relating to. *Sent to Governor*

[HB 1620](#): Appropriation; Public Service Commission. *House Conferees Named (Read, Bounds, Eure) → Senate Conferees Named (Hopson, DeLano, McCaughn)*



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Senate

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

SB 2339: *Provision of law establishing energy efficiency standards for building construction; extend repealer on. [Senate Conferees Named \(Carter, Younger, Parks\)](#) → [House Conferees Named \(Powell, Hale, Crudup\)](#)*

SB 2341: *Electric transmission infrastructure; maintain state jurisdiction over integrity of. [Signed by Governor](#)*

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

SB 2512: *Counties; authorize to designate ARPA funds to rural water and sewer associations for infrastructure projects. [Returned by House for Concurrence](#) → [Senate Declined to Concur/Invited Conference](#)*

SB 2562: *Transportation; allow public and private partnerships to establish electric vehicle charging stations. [Signed by Governor](#)*

SB 2698: *Ad valorem tax; extend fee-in-lieu qualifying period for renewable energy project. [Signed by Governor](#)*

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

- The Commission** issued a [Suspension Order](#) in regard to the Notice of **Mississippi Power Company** of Its 2023 Eco Filing Pursuant To The Environmental Compliance Overview Plan.
- Mississippi Power Company** filed its Notice of its 2022 [Performance Evaluation Plan](#), Rate Schedule (PEP-6). PEP is used to evaluate performance in setting rates, afford customers more rate stability, give **Mississippi Power Company** more predictability, and increase regulatory oversight on a more consistent basis. Based on calculations, **Mississippi Power Company** is not requesting a change in rates or revenue increase for the projected 2023 regulatory period.
- The Public Utilities Staff** prepared and filed its Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment Audit Report for the period November 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022 for the following entities: [Atmos Energy Corporation](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire Mississippi Inc.](#)
- Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its [System Integrity Performance Metrics](#) which measures reductions in incidents and safety-related events, including a year-over-year comparison of leak repairs made and the year-over-year comparison of leak calls received from customers or third parties.
- Level 3 Telecom of Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Access Service Tariff No. 13 Revisions](#) with a proposed effective date of April 1, 2023.
- The Commission** issued an [Order Granting Joint Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice](#) filed by **Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC** d/b/a AT&T Mississippi and **Cellular South, Inc.**, d/b/a C Spire in regard to the Petition for Arbitration of a billing dispute between **Cellular South, Inc.** and **Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC**.
- The Commission** issued an Order granting the request of the motion to intervene in regard to **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Notice of its Intent to Establish a Solar for Schools Rate Schedule for the following entity: [Integrity Energy Partners, LLC](#). **The Commission** issued an Order granting the request of the motion to intervene in regard to **Mississippi Power Company's** Notice of its Intent to Establish a Solar for Schools Rate Schedule for the following entity: [Integrity Energy Partners, LLC](#).
- The Commission** issued an [Order Suspending Filing and Seeking Comments](#) in regards to the Notice of Intent of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** to Establish a Solar for Schools Rate Schedule. **The Commission** also issued an [Order Suspending Filing and Seeking Comments](#) in regards to the Notice of Intent of **Mississippi Power Company** to Establish a Solar for Schools Rate Schedule. In addition to the filing requirements identified in Rule 9.103.3 of the **Commission's** Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure, parties and interveners may submit comments related to each Notice of Intent filing for the **Commission's** consideration.

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Initial Comments shall be filed on or before, Thursday, March 30, 2023, and Reply Comments shall be filed on or before, Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

- ✎ In addition to the filing requirements identified in Rule 9.103.3 of the **Commission's** Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure, submit Comments related to **Mississippi Power Company's** Notice of Intent filing for the **Commission's** consideration. Initial Comments shall be filed on or before, Thursday, March 30, 2023, and Reply Comments shall be filed on or before, Tuesday, April 11, 2023.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving the Notice of Intent of **Mississippi Power Company** to implement a revised rate schedule in support of the new Mississippi Distributed Generation Rule.
- ✎ **The Commission** also issued an [Order](#) approving the Notice of Intent of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** to implement a revised rate schedule in support of the new Mississippi Distributed Generation Rule.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) regarding the Notice of Intent of **Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC** to Establish State-Wide Rates for Wastewater Disposal Service in its Certificated Area in the State allowing parties to submit to the Hearing Examiner proposed findings of facts and conclusions of law by Friday, March 31, 2023.

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



Davis with our office joined Atmos Energy for a check presentation Tuesday at Blackburn Middle School in Jackson. Atmos Energy made a \$5,000 contribution to the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation in support of their A-TEAAM program and their national Youth Leadership Summit, which will be held in June in Jackson. Davis and the Atmos Energy team had the opportunity to take a tour and see the program in action. We appreciate Atmos Energy's continuous efforts to serve their communities and contribute to public education.



This week, I have been in New Orleans for the MISO Board of Directors and for the OMS Board of Directors to generally discuss matters related to regional transmission planning, cost allocation, grid reliability efforts, generation accreditation and adequacy of generation resources during times of extreme weather events. I enjoyed visiting with my counterpart from Louisiana, Commissioner Craig Greene, who is also an Orthopedic Surgeon. I learned that Commissioner Greene played football for LSU at the same time I played for MSU. While we were on the opposite sidelines, I don't know if we ever lined up across from each other. If you are wondering, yeah, I could have taken him. Ha!



Rachael from our office had the opportunity to attend the Central Electric Power Association Annual Meeting Tuesday in Carthage, MS. She is also a member of Central EPA. Since 1937, Central EPA has provided reliable, affordable electric service, and currently serves more than 38,000 members. Members enjoyed some early morning entertainment and donuts at the meeting followed by an informative update from their General Manager, Brian Long. We appreciate the hospitality and look forward to a visit soon!



Rachael attended the Mississippi Economic Council's Legislative Scrambler this morning, hosted by Atmos Energy. The session focused on energy in Mississippi and MEC members received an update from Representative Brent Powell and Senator Joel Carter, the Chairmen of the House and Senate Energy Committees.

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Thanks to the Catfish Farmers Of Mississippi and Roger Barlow for the hospitality and wonderful catfish lunch last week at the First Baptist Church of Jackson. Mississippi is the nation's largest producer of farm-raised catfish. Not only is it an economic staple for the Delta, it is a healthy, tasty staple of many family meals.



It was a special treat to be back in my hometown, Carthage, MS, last week for the Leake County Sheriff's Office Senior Citizen Triad event. This was the first year the event could be held in person since prior to the pandemic in 2020. It was a PACKED house and I appreciate the opportunity to visit and speak with many friends and family from Leake County. Their law enforcement entities and first responders do a phenomenal job hosting this free event for their senior citizens each year. I look forward to being back with everyone next year!



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **35** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	27
Telecommunications	7
Water/Sewer	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **133** 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.