

April 5, 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



20 Years Ago Today...

Twenty years ago today (April 5, 2003), Rhonda Renee Irby blessed me with the joy of becoming my wife. I am deeply grateful to have her by my side and I appreciate her patience and understanding as I continue to do all I can to effectively represent and work for the people of Mississippi, specifically the citizens of the Central District.

Like so many spouses, Rhonda puts up with my hard-headed ways, copes with my habits, contends with my travel schedule, and still finds a way to stick with me each day. I knew I picked a good one! Here is to twenty years of wedded bliss and I look forward to another twenty more!



Pictured above: John Stallings (Central Region), Jerry Kennermur (North Region), Charles Stallings (South Region), Bert Pickard (South Region)

April is recognized as [National Safe Digging Month](#) and serves to bring awareness to Americans about how much infrastructure they rely on every day that is buried underground, and to remind them to stay safe and keep their communities connected to critical utility services as they conduct common digging projects. Contacting 811 is the first and most responsible step to protect buried utilities.

In Mississippi, our in-state call-before-you-dig notification system program, [Mississippi 811](#), is free and helps protect hundreds of thousands of miles of underground utility lines that are necessary for everyday life. **In 2022, Mississippi 811 agents received 531,687 calls (a 10.57% increase over 2021) which resulted in approximately 2,614,569 utility locates. Mississippi 811 membership is stands at 1,059 utility members.**

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As part of National Safe Digging Month, we will be sharing information, recommendations and reminders throughout April to help protect you and prevent damage to underground utilities. The Mississippi Public Service Commission encourages homeowners to take the following basic steps before conducting any digging or excavation:



- **Contact 811 at least two days before digging, regardless of depth or your familiarity with the property.**
- **Make an 811 request on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend.**
- **Confirm that all lines have been marked.**
- **Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.**
- **If a contractor has been hired, confirm that the contractor has contacted 811. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.**
- **Visit www.811beforeyoudig.com for more information.**

Highlights from the April 4, 2023, Docket Meeting

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on April 4, 2023, at 10:00 am CT to consider the following [agenda](#) items:

- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an [Order](#) approving the Notice of **Mississippi Power Company** of its 2023 Environmental Compliance Overview (ECO) Plan. These projected expenditures result in a 2023 revenue adjustment equal to a \$2.9 million increase in the ECO revenue requirement as compared to 2022. As a result of the structure of the ECO rate mechanism (and the recovery recognized for the first four months of 2023), the rate impact of this revenue adjustment actually results in a rate decrease of \$0.04 for a residential customer with monthly usage of 1,000 kWh.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving the Notice of **Mississippi Power Company (MPCo)** of its 2023 System Restoration Rider, Rate Schedule ("SRR"). On an annual basis, that SRR balance reflects the amount that **MPCo** accrued towards the SRR Reserve (as a result of retail rate recovery) minus what was paid out for storm damage expenses. For the period of March 2022 through December 2022, **MPCo** accrued \$6,875,000 with storm damages in the amount of \$4.6 million for a 2022 ending balance of \$37 million. For 2023, **MPCo** is projecting a total accrual for the 2023 period of \$11.7 million. **MPCo** is projecting a total SRR Reserve balance of \$48.7 million as of December 31, 2023. The current SSR Rate is \$0.96 for a residential customer with monthly usage of 1,000 kWh and will not change for 2023. Therefore, the average residential customer will experience no change in the SSR rate. **MPCo's** SSR Reserve target balance is \$75 million.
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an [Order](#) approving **Wide Voice, LLC's** Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to Provide Resold Local Exchange & Interexchange Telecommunication Services. **Wide Voice** holds Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) authority in all US states except for Mississippi. The **Commission** found the company has sufficient financial resources and possesses the technical/managerial expertise to provide resold and facilities based local and interexchange telecom services in the state.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving the **Town of Brooksville's** Notice of Intent to Increase Water Rates for Service in Its Certified Area in **Noxubee County**. **Brooksville** will increase its minimum monthly water rate from \$16.20 for 0-2,000 gallons, to \$18.20 for 0-2,000 gallons.





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Furthermore, **Brooksville** will increase its connection fee from \$100.00 to \$150.00 applicable to a customer requesting a connection to **Brooksville's** water system when a water tap has previously been performed at the location. **Brooksville** sufficiently proved that an increase to its monthly minimum water rate was necessary and justified.

- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) Referring the Petition of **Ragsdale Solar** for a Facilities Certificate to Construct and Operate a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Madison County** to the Central District Commissioner for hearing, report, and recommendation of an appropriate order or any other matter necessary.



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



Legislation Tracker

The 2023 Regular Session trudged across the finish line in the early hours of Saturday morning with adjournment at 1:56 am. Below is a rundown of some of the bills we've been monitoring throughout and where they currently stand. As of today, the Governor has already signed several bills dealing with utilities and other interests to the Commission and those he hasn't are due April 20, 2023. Most of this legislation goes into effect on July 1 at the beginning of the 2024 Fiscal Year.

House

[HB 288](#): Public Utilities Staff; authorize certain personnel to be filled by consulting contract. Current Status: [Signed by Governor 03/13/23](#)

[HB 698](#): Municipal water, wastewater, and sewer services; require equity-based billing based on use of. Current Status: [Due from Governor 04/20/23](#)

[HB 809](#): Executive Director of Public Utilities Staff; remove Public Service Commission from the process of appointing. Current Status: [Signed by Governor 03/22/23](#)

[HB 1060](#): Electric vehicles; authorize charging by non-utilities. Current Status: [Signed by Governor 03/13/23](#)

[HB 1225](#): Telephone solicitation; bring forward provisions of law relating to. Current Status: [Signed by Governor 03/22/23](#)

[HB 1620](#): Appropriation; Public Service Commission. Current Status: [Due from Governor 04/20/23](#)

[HB 1716](#): Appropriation; DEQ for funding the MS Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant Program. Current Status: [Signed by Governor 03/22/23](#)

Senate

[SB 2102](#): Impending emergency excavation; define, establish advance notice requirements and require premarking for. Current Status: [Signed by Governor 03/21/23](#)

[SB 2339](#): Provision of law establishing energy efficiency standards for building construction; extend repealer on. Current Status: [Due from Governor 04/20/23](#)

[SB 2341](#): Electric transmission infrastructure; maintain state jurisdiction over integrity of. Current Status: [Signed by Governor 03/06/23](#)

[SB 2433](#): Regulation of public utilities; exempt distribution of water by eligible homeowners' association to its own residents from. Current Status: [Signed by Governor 03/08/23](#)

[SB 2512](#): Counties; authorize to designate ARPA funds to rural water and sewer associations for infrastructure projects. Current Status: [Due from Governor 04/20/23](#)

[SB 2562](#): Transportation; allow public and private partnerships to establish electric vehicle charging stations. Current Status: [Signed by Governor 03/03/23](#)

[SB 2698](#): Ad valorem tax; extend fee-in-lieu qualifying period for renewable energy project. Current Status: [Signed by Governor 03/16/23](#)

Please note that identification of a bill 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. However, I plan to offer my analysis of selected legislation in a future newsletter.



Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Revised Notice](#) of Public Workshop regarding the Workshop held on Friday March 31, 2023 to include an email where questions could be submitted during the Workshop's live stream.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) agreeing to issue a Declaratory Opinion regarding a specific question pertaining to an email correspondence published as an ex parte communication.
- ✎ The following entities filed their Objection and Exception to the Notice of Intent of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** to Establish a Solar for Schools Rate: [Gulf State Renewable Energy Industry Association](#) (GSREIA); [Entegrity Energy Partners, LLC](#)
- ✎ The following entities filed their Objection and Exception to the Notice of Intent of **Mississippi Power Company** to Establish a Solar for Schools Rate: [Gulf State Renewable Energy Industry Association](#) (GSREIA); [Entegrity Energy Partners, LLC](#)
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Initial Comments](#) to the Notice of Intent of **Mississippi Power Company** to Establish a Solar for Schools Rate.
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** also filed its [Initial Comments](#) and Reservation of Rights to the Notice of Intent of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** to Establish a Solar for Schools Rate.
- ✎ **Great River Utility Operating Co. LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for Sale and Transfer of Certain Assets, Facilities, Property, and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Provision of Wastewater Disposal Service in [Harrison](#), [Hinds](#), and [Rankin](#) Counties. **Great River** has entered into separate asset purchase agreements with the owners of the following Central District wastewater entities: **Siwell Utility Co., Inc.** (120 Current Customers in **Hinds County**); **Rolling Hills Wastewater, Inc** (170 Current Customers in **Rankin County**). [Siwell Utility Co., Inc.](#) and [Rolling Hills Wastewater, Inc](#) also filed Joinder Petitions with **Great River** for Approval of Sale and Transfer. In addition, **Great River, Siwell Utility Co., Inc., and Rolling Hills Wastewater, Inc.** jointly filed the MS Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Permits to Discharge Wastewater in Accordance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Certificates for [Siwell Utility Co., Inc.](#) and [Rolling Hills Wastewater, Inc.](#)
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its 2022 Mississippi Renewable Energy Net Metering Rule and Interconnection Report (MRENMR)/Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule (MDGIR) [Report](#). This report is intended to satisfy the reporting requirements established by the MRENMR and MDGIR and provide a more complete picture of **Mississippi Power Company's** renewable customers in 2022.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its [Notice](#) of 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Adjustment Factor ([ATA](#)) for April 2023 through March 2024.
- ✎ **Brightspeed Broadband, LLC** filed its [Revised Tariff](#) to Reflect Name Change reflecting the company's name change from CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC.
- ✎ An individual filed their [Supplemental Analysis and Comments](#) regarding **Southern Spirit Transmission, LLC's** Supplemental Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Proposed Southern Spirit Transmission Project.

Mississippi Power Company Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Public Workshop

On Friday, March 31, 2023, at 9:00am **Mississippi Power Company** held its Initial Public Workshop for its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), in the **Commission's** hearing room on the first floor of the Woolfolk State Office Building.





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Mississippi Power Company (MPCo) began the Workshop by identifying the purpose of the meeting which was to exchange pertinent information concerning the IRP process, such as: resource options, planning assumptions and inputs that may be used in the development of the 2024 IRP. **MPCo** then moved to identify several significant assumption changes since the 2021 IRP which were the Inflation Reduction Act, unit retirement optimization, renewable integration cost, load forecast, and pre-commercial technologies.



Pictured left to right: Ben Vance (MPC Manager, Rates & Regulatory), Randy Hubbert (SCS Manager IRP), Brandon Looney (SCS Manager Resiliency & Reliability), Charles Rossmann (SCS Project Manager Resource Planning), Lynda Johnson (MPC Manager Marketing Services), David Schmidt (MPC Manager Generation Planning & Performance), Salisha Farve (MPC Senior Program Manager Energy Efficiency), Phillip Worland (MPC Senior Engineer Generation Support), Mike Pruitt (MPC Supervisor Energy Efficiency), and Theron Furr (MPC Project Manager Generation Support)

MPCo presenters then discussed the importance of coordinated planning between Mississippi Power, Georgia Power, and Alabama Power and how coordinated planning is a forward-looking process to provide adequate resources to meet anticipated customer demand. The coordinated retail Operating Company IRPs are combined into an aggregate plan that reflects the benefits of load diversity, pooling and reserve sharing to economically meet the minimum system target reserve margins. Retail operating companies then make their own plans and decisions informed by the efficiencies available from the aggregate plan. **MPCo** looks at all potential scenarios as it pertains to resource selection processes some of which achieve net zero company goals. **MPCo** must also keep in mind its existing resources such as its generating fleet, generating capacity and energy mix (coal, gas, other), energy mix by technology, and generating unit retirement plans.

This segued into **MPCo**'s discussion about Demand-Side Management resources and recent market potential studies, portfolio targets, and providing a Demand-Side Management program summary. The Company followed by focusing on its Reserve Margin Study and the importance of reserves needed to account for uncertainty in weather, economic growth, unit performance, and market purchase availability. The workshop then transitioned to discuss **MPCo**'s focus on capacity equivalency which is determined by comparing the improvement in system reliability accomplished by the addition of an energy limited resource to the improvement in system reliability accomplished which is accomplished by the addition of a fully dispatchable resource.

Next, the methodology for **MPCo**'s Renewable Integration Study was presented. The objective of this study was to identify optimal renewable integration solutions for significant renewable resource additions on the Southern Company system to ensure that both capacity and flexibility needs are addressed through measuring reliability on multiple timescales. **MPCo** began winding down the workshop by identifying its scenario development process and pointing out key uncertainties in the future such as greenhouse gas pressure, technology cost and performance, load growth, and fuel prices. **MPCo** then concluded with by identifying its 2021 IRP Action items which were the transition of fossil steam units, technology options, demand-side management, and transmission and followed this with **MPCo**'s new action items which were to re-evaluate a solar subscription program, incorporate Watson 5 retirement optimization results, and forecast load and resource changes due to the new net metering rule.

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



CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



Last week, I stopped by the Pearl River Solar Park construction site to check on progress. The 1,760 acre, 175 MW facility is located in northwest Scott County. The project developer is EDP-Renewables and general contractor is Signal Energy. EDP Renewables Project Manager Rob Walker (MS native and proud Mississippi State University grad) gave me a tour around the site. Multiple stages of work from site clearing to racking and panel installation to substation/transmission tie in construction is occurring. And across the site you see familiar names such as B & B Electrical & Utility Contractors, A-1 Kendrick Fence, Attala Steel Industries and more doing work at the site along with about 150 local workers as part of the overall work force. EDP hopes to be putting power on the grid by the end of the year.



I stopped by the Mississippi Rural Water Association's 2023 Operator's Expo at the Canton Multipurpose Complex last week. This annual event provides continuing education opportunities, interaction with numerous exhibitors, and hands on demonstrations and competitions - such as the pipe leak repair competition. Always good to visit with MsRWA leadership and Mississippi businesses such as Taylor Power Systems.



We started this week off with a tour of the American Red Cross Disaster Operations Center in Flowood. The Center is operating with 400+ disaster workers/volunteers who are traveling back and forth to the most devastated areas in central Mississippi and across state lines into Alabama. We sat in on an All Donor Call, which provided an update and overview of the current conditions in the hardest hit areas. This center is operating at full force and it was very moving to see the work being done to help provide as much relief and services as fast as they can to these hard hit communities that many Mississippians call home.

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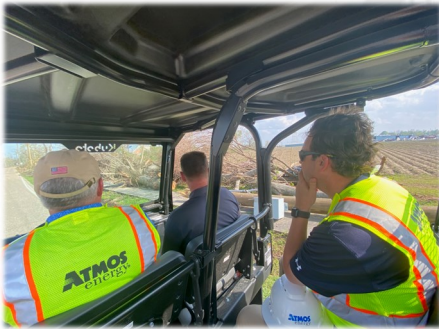
We made a stop in Anguilla at one of the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Shelters. It was great to meet Mayor Jan Pearson and to hear about the support they are providing to storm victims in their area.



We ventured into Rolling Fork on Monday with the Atmos Energy Team who has set up a mobile command unit in the middle of the town. Atmos Energy services approximately 600 meters in the town and are using every resource available to safely repair their system. We took a tour around their service area and throughout our tour, it was really insightful to see the progress made by other utilities as well, including electric, water and telecommunications. I appreciate their timely efforts to help the folks in this town retrieve the most critical services needed to help rebuild and recover. Check out all of the photos we took during our visit.



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While on the road, we stopped by The Onward Store. The store is a longtime icon and is one of the most unique restaurants in Mississippi, and that's because it's not just a restaurant. It's also a general store and, above all, a historic landmark that opened back in 1913. Onward, MS, is where President Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear, which, in turn, led to the creation of the teddy bear.



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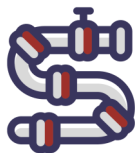
We were thrilled to have Joshua Q. Carter and John Zachary Pyles join us to provide the opening prayers for Tuesday morning's docket meeting.

Mr. Carter (pictured left) was born and raised in Port Arthur, TX, and he joined the U.S. Army Reserve and was transferred to active duty after graduation high school and served for a decade, having served two tours on Iraq and one in Afghanistan. After receiving a degree in Criminal Justice, he is currently a class of 2025 student at the Mississippi College School of Law.

Mr. Pyles (pictured right), a Brandon native, is an active member of Grace Primitive Baptist Church in Pearl. He graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Mississippi State where he interned for Entergy working in transmission. Mr. Pyles is currently a third year law student at the Mississippi College School of Law.



Our Pipeline Safety Division completed 3 construction inspection in the Central District during the month of March.



The total amount of construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of March is approximately **\$3,481,400.**

"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.



After Tuesday morning's docket meeting, staff of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) conducted a training session for staff members of the Commission. As the Mississippi representative for the Organization of MISO States, Inc. (OMS) Board of Directors, I appreciate the overview from MISO and will continue to provide recommendations that add value and benefits for Mississippi customers as generation and transmission planning is evaluated to increase grid reliability.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **33** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	28
Telecommunications	4
Natural Gas	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **87** 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.