

May 24, 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*

## EIA Expects Less Overall Electricity Demand This Summer

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects that a slightly cooler summer in 2023 will lead to less demand for air conditioning than in 2022, slightly reducing overall demand for electricity this summer. However, a lot of the overall weather impacts rides on whether the U.S. sees a significant transition to an El Niño weather pattern.

During an El Niño winter, the southern third of the U.S. typically experiences wetter-than-average conditions, while the northern third sees enhanced chances of below-normal precipitation. El Niño also means increased chances for below-normal temperatures across the southern U.S. and above-normal temperatures in the northern third of the country. El Niño also tends to lead to an increase in vertical wind shear, which tends to reduce the number of hurricanes in the tropical Atlantic.

In its May [Short-Term Energy Outlook](#) (STEO), EIA expects less electricity demand this summer. What does that mean for the national electric generation portfolio? EIA forecasts this summer will see the second-most U.S. natural gas consumption for electricity generation on record, surpassed only by last summer. EIA continues to expect significant growth in U.S. electricity generation from wind and solar, but the wet winter in California and the western United States should also increase electricity generated from hydropower during the coming months. As more electricity is generated from renewable sources, electricity generated from coal is likely to decline.

EIA expects U.S. retail electricity costs will remain higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Those higher prices mean that even if households consume less electricity, electricity bills are likely to be similar or slightly higher than last summer. Much of the increase in retail rates is due to the regulatory lag related to the recovery of 2022's high natural gas prices and greater investments in grid resiliency. However, electricity consumption and expenditures in Mississippi is greatly dependent on weather—especially if the summer months are hotter than forecast. If this summer turns out to be warmer than forecast, we will see more demand for air conditioning, greater electricity use, and higher bills.

Just in case temperatures climb higher than forecast, ensure that your home is ready for the summer's heat. Take steps to prepare your home to keep the indoors cool without skyrocketing your energy bill. Here are some suggested actions you can take:

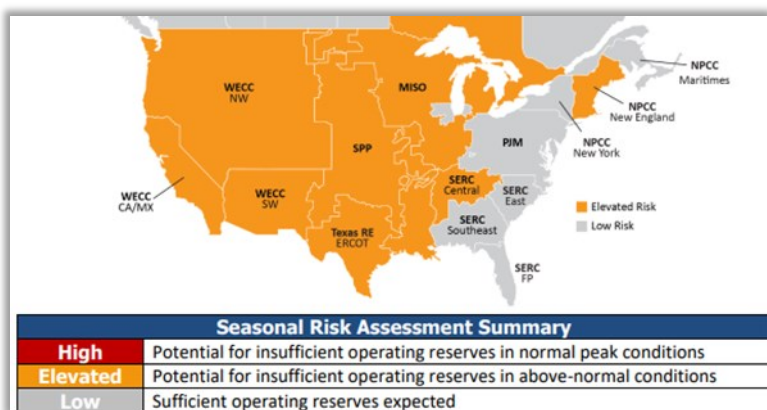
- Replace your HVAC filter every 30 days
- Install a programmable thermostat
- Install landscaping or exterior awnings to shade windows
- Update your home's attic insulation
- Keep doors and windows closed when the HVAC is running
- Clean refrigerator and freezer coils
- Install ceiling fans for frequently occupied areas
- Seek out and seal air leaks, especially around doors and windows
- Get a home energy assessment performed by a home energy expert! You'll better understand where your home is wasting energy, how to remedy the situation, and what rebates and incentives are available to make cost-effective, energy-efficient upgrades.



## Extreme Heatwave This Summer Could Challenge Grid Reliability

The North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) released its [2023 Summer Reliability Assessment](#) (SRA) earlier this month. The SRA identifies, assesses, and reports on areas of concern regarding the reliability of the North American bulk power system for the upcoming summer season. In addition, the SRA presents peak electricity demand and supply changes and highlights any unique regional challenges or expected conditions that might affect the reliability of the grid.



The assessment finds that, while resources are adequate for normal summer peak demand, if summer temperatures spike, two-thirds the U.S. may face electricity supply shortages during periods of extreme demand levels. Should summer temperatures turn extreme, much of the U.S. could face an elevated risk of controlled load shedding (aka rolling blackouts).



So, what does that mean for Mississippi's electric customers? Entergy Mississippi and Cooperative Energy are part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). MISO is expected to have sufficient resources, including firm imports, for normal summer peak demand. MISO can face challenges in meeting above-normal peak demand if wind generator energy output is lower than expected and unplanned baseload generator outages occur. The TVA region, which distributes power to the northeast quadrant of Mississippi, is in the SERC-Central reliability zone. For this area, forecasted peak demand has risen by over 950 MW while growth in anticipated resources has been flat. The area is expected to have sufficient supply for normal peak demand while demand-side management or other mitigation action may be needed for above-normal demand or high generator-outage conditions.

Other than the threat of extremely high temperatures, there are other reliability risks that will be watched over the Summer of 2023. These include: 1) Natural gas and coal fuel delivery infrastructure disruption risks; 2) New environmental rules that could greatly restrict power plant emissions; 3) Low inventories of distribution transformers and other supply chain issues; 4) Grid scale disturbances due to the wide-spread loss of inverter based resources; 5) Curtailing of energy exports between regional transmission organizations during energy emergencies or congestion; and 6) Physical threats to the electrical infrastructure system.

## Last Week at the MPSC

-  **The Commission** filed a [Revised Scheduling Order](#) in regard to **Entergy Mississippi LLC's** Application for Approval of EDGE Resources to Support Reliability, Fuel Diversity, and Economic Development; and for Other Relief.
-  **Global Tel\*Link Corp d/b/a ViaPath Technologies** filed its [Revised Mississippi Tariff No. 2](#). Each page of the tariff included in the filing reflects the addition of the Company's previously approved d/b/a name in the header and in the text as marked, and the Company's updated address in the footer. The purpose of these changes is to update definitions, update certain terms and conditions, and reduce certain rates.





*Continued...*

- ✉ **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC** filed its Verification of Notice to Customers to establish statewide rates for [Water Service](#) and [Wastewater Service](#) for its Certificated areas in the State.
- ✉ **The Public Utilities Staff** filed the Confidential Review and Assessment of the Proposed EDGE Resources Selected in **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** 2022 Renewable Energy RFP Report prepared by **Bates White Economic Consulting** for the **Public Utilities Staff**.
- ✉ **The Commission** filed an [Order Canceling](#) the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for **Claro Enterprise Solutions, LLC**. The Company came before the **Commission** requesting to Voluntarily Surrender its Certificate and Withdraw its Tariffs.
- ✉ **SR CL Panola III, LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for a Facilities Certificate to Construct and Operate a 4.5 MWac Solar Electric Generating Facility on an approximately 100-acre tract in Panola County, partially within the city limits of Batesville. The Facility will deliver wholesale power directly into Tallahatchie Valley EPA's distribution grid. The investment in Mississippi necessary to construct the Facility will be approximately \$5,400,000. The Facility is scheduled to be in commercial operation by December 31, 2024.

## CLEANPOWER 2023 brings over 8,000 attendees to N.O., LA

Over 8,000 registered participants and over 480 exhibitors were on hand for the CLEANPOWER Conference & Exhibition taking place in New Orleans over May 23-25. This is the highest profile event for the clean energy community with every segment of the industry imaginable on hand to market their technologies, components and services. Corporate leaders, innovators and policy experts shared ideas and solutions to facilitate the growth of utility-scale clean energy while also recognizing the challenges that the sector faces in integration, finance and market accreditation. The conference focused on three main themes: Building confidence in the investment community; Clean energy as a contributor to economic, security and community well-being; Building a strong workforce and other local concerns.



I was honored to be invited by the American Clean Power Association (ACPA) to participate on a Commissioner Panel to discuss issues regarding regulatory responsibilities towards resource adequacy and affordability, federal-state cooperation, transmission planning and siting policy, working with local communities, and how clean energy is perceived in the states across different population segments. I shared the stage with Commissioner Devante Lewis of Louisiana and former Commissioner Libby Jacobs of Iowa.

The event included keynotes from notable leaders such as Retired General Stanley McChrystal, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, and Earvin "Magic" Johnson. I had the pleasure of visiting with the American Clean Power Association's new CEO Jason Grumet. Mr. Grumet came to the ACPA organization from the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) where he was the former President and CEO. Other notable members of the BPC bench of experts include Mississippians Trent Lott and Haley Barbour.



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



Asset Engineering is currently located in Canton, MS. But due to the growth of their staff, they will soon be moving to a bigger facility in Madison County. Holly Hicks and Ron Reed along with other Asset Engineering team members were among the 840+ exhibitors showcasing their services in support the growing clean energy industry.



AES is a global power generation company. It owns and operates a wide range of power plants, which generates and sells electricity to end users and intermediaries like utilities and industrial facilities. AES is also building the Delta Wind Project in Tunica County, MS. The project will utilize the latest in wind turbine technology and is set to begin constructing foundations and erecting towers and turbines this year. I am pictured with Jeremy Evans, Hesston Klenk and Katie Haarsager.



In addition to the traditional clean energy technology stakeholders, clean energy advocates who promote the economic, security and competitive aspects of domestic, clean energy were on hand at the conference. It was a pleasure to catch up and reconnect with Tyler Duvelius of the Conservative Energy Network and Larry Ward of Conservatives for a Clean Energy Future.



## I Join the NARUC-NASEO Advanced Nuclear State Collaborative

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) have initiated the Advanced Nuclear State Collaborative (ANSC), a new effort supported by the U.S. Department of Energy. This collaborative brings together state utility regulators and state energy officials from across the United States to enhance collective understanding of regulatory and policy questions surrounding the consideration and deployment of new advanced nuclear generation technologies. I recently met with members of NARUC staff to discuss the roles of the state, utilities and other stakeholders in exploring policy and planning options to move nuclear energy consideration options forward in addressing energy reliability, affordability, and economic and environmental goals. More than 30 utility commissions and state energy offices representing 24 states have signed on to join the ANSC. I am happy to represent Mississippi as part of this state collaborative. I am also a member of the NARUC-DOE Nuclear Energy Partnership and the NARUC Committee on Nuclear Issues-Waste Disposal.

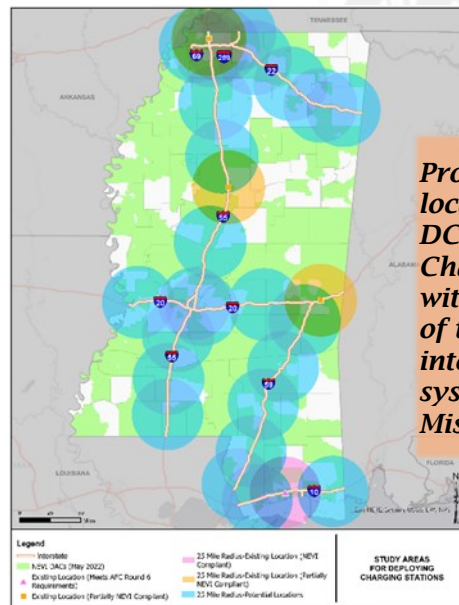






## MDOT Provides Update on NEVI Program

Last week, representatives of the MS Department of Transportation, MS Public Service Commission, MS Department of Environmental Quality, MS Development Authority, MS Division of Energy and Natural Resources, MS Public Utilities Staff, and Federal Highway Administration came together to receive an update on MDOT's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Deployment Plan. The MDOT is responsible for allocating \$50.5 million over 5 years to provide reliable, accessible, and equitable EV charging infrastructure across the state. MDOT is currently drafting a Request for Information and will soon begin drafting a Request for Proposals for EV infrastructure installation. The USDOT is currently taking applications for funding under the \$700 million CFI Discretionary Grant Program. Grants are expected to support buildout of charging or other alternative



**Proposed locations for DC Fast Chargers within 1 mile of the interstate system in Mississippi.**



*Jessica Dilley discusses MDOT's NEVI program and provide a Deployment Plan update while I and others listen to the presentation and provide feedback on the program and plan.*



fueling infrastructure along designated alternative fuels corridors (AFCs). AFCs requires no more than 50 miles between charging stations and certain other DC fast charger standards. Approximately 25-30 new EV charging stations are needed to bring AFCs recognition across the state.



- MS Rural Water Association Annual Management & Technical Conference & Exhibition in Biloxi, MS — May 29 - June 1, 2023
- PSC's June Monthly Docket Meeting — June 13 at 10:00 a.m.



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

Electric Companies	26
Telecommunications	5
Natural Gas	2
Water/Sewer	2

Last week, the Central District received a total of **72** 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.*