

June 8, 2023

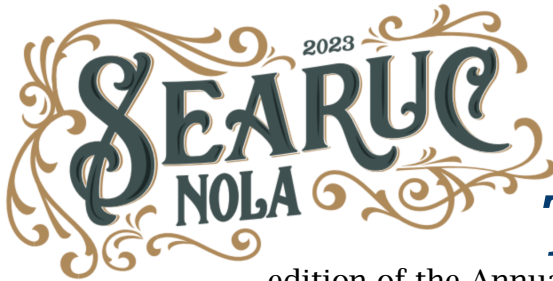


FROM THE DESK OF
COMMISSIONER
BRENT BAILEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



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



SEARUC 2023 Annual Educational Conference

The first half of this week was spent in New Orleans, Louisiana for the 2023 edition of the Annual Educational Conference of the Southeast Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC). Commissioners, staffs and stakeholders from across the spectrum gathered to discuss the latest developments in key areas



impacting the delivery of reliable, affordable utility services. We heard from Louisiana Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser (*pictured left*), FERC Commissioner James Danly (*pictured below, left*), and key utility and organizational executives on the challenges and opportunities within the utility sector.



Topics highlighted throughout the conference included advanced nuclear systems, broadband expansion, storm management plans and managing storm recovery costs, water and wastewater management options, customer choice opportunities, physical and cybersecurity response and electric vehicle infrastructure. In particular, I participated on a panel (*pictured below*)

that explored the role of large-scale transmission development in utility resource planning and the programs available in the Inflation Reduction Act that can facilitate grid enhancement measures and regional interconnections.



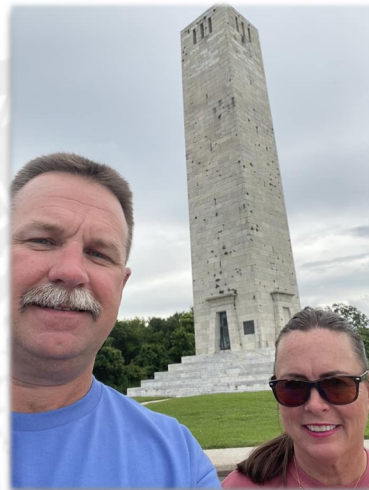
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While attendees took some deep dives into the issues, we were also able to sample some of what New Orleans has to offer. New Orleans is so rich in history. From the unique architecture around the city to the battlefields of early America to the shipping trade up and down the Mississippi River to the mesmerizing National WWII Museum, there is something for everyone. And the food scene, well, it speaks for itself.

The ability to interact, share experiences and learn from other Commissioners from around the Southeast is truly a valuable aspect of these SEARUC events. While no two Public Service Commissions operate the same and state statutes bestow differing levels of responsibility upon the various regulatory bodies, it is worthwhile to learn about innovative policies and potential practices that may benefit customers through rate design, fuel management, data analysis, extreme weather preparation and more. A big shout out to LPSC Commissioner Eric Skrmetta and his staff for organizing a strong program.



*AL PSC Commissioner Jeremy Oden and
LPSC Commissioner Davante Lewis*



*TN PSC Commissioner
Robin Morrison*



The Victory Belles



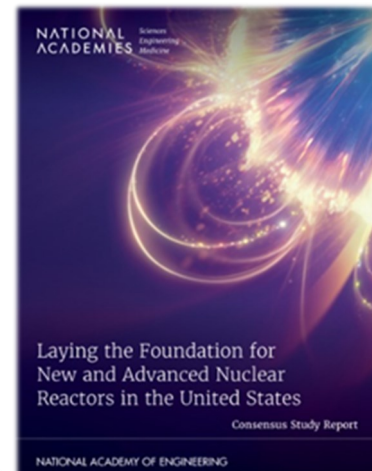
*LPSC Commissioner
Eric Skrmetta*



New Reports and Publications

Nuclear Energy's Role in a Decarbonized Future

As the U.S. electric power system undergoes a sweeping transition and the nation moves to reduce emissions, the demand for low-carbon energy resources continues to grow and create new challenges for electricity generation utilities. A new National Academies' report, [*Laying the Foundation for New and Advanced Nuclear Reactors in the United States*](#), explores how the U.S. could support the successful commercialization of advanced nuclear reactors through near-term policies and practices. Today, 92 nuclear power plants generate nearly 20% of the nation's total electricity needs. Check out the [Full Report](#) to learn how new and advanced nuclear reactors could potentially meet a much wider variety of energy needs.



Investing in New Generation vs. Investing in Energy Efficiency

Texas policymakers are still grappling over how to craft legislation and direct resources in such a manner as to avoid any replication of Winter Storm Uri in February 2021 and to ensure adequate capacity to meet peak summer demands for electricity. While a couple of bills died that would have authorized the direct expenditure of billions of dollars of tax revenues to build natural gas plants across the state, the Texas Legislature did create a [\\$5 billion loan and grant program](#) designed to encourage the construction of natural gas-fueled power plants. But is there a more cost-effective option to improve grid reliability and ensure plenty of available energy resources?

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) has published a [new study](#) that builds on an earlier 2021 ACEEE [paper](#). The latest study finds that incentivizing energy-saving upgrades in homes and commercial buildings and rewarding electric customers for voluntarily shifting some energy use to off-peak hours would reduce peak electrical demand and improve grid reliability at a far lower cost than building new, subsidized power plants. Check out the [press release](#) to learn more.

Last Week at the MPSC

- ☞ **The Public Utilities Staff** provided nonconfidential versions of the reviews prepared by **Bates White Economic Consulting** on **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** [2023 Transmission & Distribution Plan](#) and [Annual Energy Delivery Plan](#). These versions redact the trade secrets and confidential commercial and financial information to allow for the reports to be viewed by the general public.
- ☞ **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its Rule 7.103 [Construction Notice](#) pertaining to the Porter Street Phase 4 Project located in Jackson. This System Integrity project will replace approximately 6,600 feet of mains and 47 services in Jackson between University Boulevard and Railroad Avenue. The estimated completion date is August 25, 2023 and the estimated cost is \$1,203,632.58.
- ☞ **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for Approval of the Sale and Transfer of Certain Facilities, Property, and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Provision of Wastewater Disposal Service in **Lamar** and **Lauderdale Counties**. The acquired Wastewater system located in the Central District is [Huntington Park](#) serving approximately 25 to 30 homes in **Lauderdale County**.



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Huntington Park also filed a [Joinder](#) in support of Great River's Petition for Approval of Sale and Transfer. Great River and Huntington Park also submitted the [Environmental Permit](#) issued by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality certifying the system to discharge wastewater.

- ☞ Beaman Renewables LLC filed its [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, authorizing the development, construction, ownership, and operation of an approximately 113 MWDC Solar photovoltaic electric generating facility with additional battery energy storage capability in **Lincoln County**. The Facility is expected to be located on a total of approximately 460 acres once constructed. The initial investment in Mississippi necessary to develop and construct the Facility will be approximately \$140,000,000. The project is estimated to create 750 short-term construction jobs and 30 long-term jobs. Beaman Renewables is currently targeting commencement of construction in 2025 or 2026 and achieving commercial operation in 2027.
- ☞ McNew Renewables LLC filed its [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing the development, construction, ownership, and operation of an approximately 125 MWDC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility with additional battery energy storage capability in **Washington County**. The Facility is expected to be located on a total of approximately 1,000 acres once constructed. The initial investment in Mississippi necessary to develop and construct the Facility will be approximately \$160,000,000. The project is estimated to create 850 short-term construction jobs and 40 long-term jobs. McNew Renewables LLC is currently targeting commencement of construction in 2025 and achieving commercial operation in 2027.
- ☞ SR Magnolia, LLC filed its [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction and operation of 160 MW solar generation facility located in **Monroe County**. The Facility will be constructed on approximately 1,466 acres in the town of Gibson at the intersection of Highway 8 and Watkins Lane. The initial investment in Mississippi necessary to develop and construct the Facility will be approximately \$150,000,000. The Facility will sell wholesale energy to the Tennessee Valley Authority and is scheduled to be in commercial operation in 2025.

June 1 officially kicked off the 2023 hurricane season. Take some time to make sure you have a hurricane evacuation plan. Prepare disaster supplies for at least 3 days. Call your insurance company or agent and ask for an insurance checkup to make sure you have enough homeowners insurance to repair or even replace your home. If you plan to ride out a hurricane in your home, make sure it is in good repair and up to local hurricane building code specifications. Remember, it only takes one storm to change your life and community.

Check out [Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Guide](#).

Our website also provides [disaster preparedness steps](#) you can take for severe storms.

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



It was a beautiful day last Friday in the Delta for the 88th Annual Meeting of the Delta Council in Cleveland, MS. In addition to celebrating the economic and agricultural accomplishments of the region and instilling new organizational leadership, this event is an opportunity to sharpen your look. Thankfully, I have a knowledgeable in-house fashion consultant. The Delta still faces challenges like much of the state, but the focused collaboration of local Delta leaders are moving the region forward.

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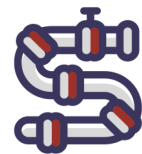


Last week, I spoke to the participants of the 2023 Convening of the Southeast Climate & Energy Network - SCEN who held their annual event in Jackson, MS. The SCEN is a coalition of 85 organizations that seeks to increase capacity for achieving policy and programmatic goals through collaboration and engagement at the state and local levels. I currently serve as the Secretary on their board. I spoke to the group about the functions of the MPSC, the role of advocates in rule-making, challenges we are facing in the energy sector, strategies to advance energy diversification and issues to be considered in their respective states, and an overview of the impact on and restoration work of utility systems following this spring's severe weather events. I appreciate the work that Alex Easdale and his team do to prepare for these meetings and I look forward to next year.



Our Pipeline Safety Division completed **1** construction inspection in the Central District during the month of May.

The total amount of construction notices that were received by the Commission in the Central District during the month of May is approximately **\$2,514,000**.



“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.



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

Electric Companies	23
Telecommunications	2
Water/Sewer	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **86** 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.*