

December 6, 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

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Commemorating Commissioner Brent Bailey's Tenure at the MPSC

By Guest Columnist: Rachael Ring Watts, MPSC Central District Director of Public Affairs

In January 2020, I joined Central District Public Service Commissioner Brent Bailey's staff as he began his first term at the Mississippi Public Service Commission. Throughout the last four years, I have had the tremendous honor to serve alongside Commissioner Bailey as his Director of Public Affairs.

Commissioner Bailey is not only a brilliant and completely dedicated and committed Commissioner, but he is also one of the hardest working elected officials we have here in Mississippi. His nearly 200 [newsletters](#) over the last four years reflect on all of the ongoing work he has done and continues to do for his constituents. His mountain of accomplishments and passion for his work have cemented an incredible legacy at the Commission. While I fully understand that it takes a very strong team to accomplish this much, it is also true that it takes a leader with great integrity, a spirit of eternal optimism, clear vision, humility and respect for all others as well. His genuine concern and leadership have attracted much attention at the Commission, and I hope he knows how many lives he has touched while serving as Commissioner. Much of what we have accomplished these last four years is a direct result of his work and leadership. Following his decades-long career and education in natural resource conservation and sustainable energy advocacy at the local, state and regional levels, I know that he will continue to have an impact on Mississippi long after he leaves Commission.



You can really get to know someone when you spend hours in the car traveling around the District (even if you are arguing about directions or someone's driving style....I won't name any names). Commissioner Bailey's sense of humor and goodwill have always been two of my favorite characteristics about him that have made my job not seem so much like a job, but more like a chosen lifestyle that I am eternally grateful for. For the last four years, I have planned my life around our weekly newsletters and even while one of us are out of town or on vacation, we work together to make these happen and this is just one of the accomplishments I am extremely proud of.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Commissioner for being an excellent boss and mentor, as well as a good friend.

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I will forever attribute much of what I have learned throughout my time at the Commission to Commissioner Bailey and I will always be proud of the opportunity I've had to serve the state of Mississippi under his leadership. Congratulations, Brent, for all of your wonderful accomplishments at the Mississippi Public Service Commission and thank you for truly caring about your staff and your constituents.

As we near the end of Commissioner Bailey's term, I am eager to share with you the appreciation expressed by others in the comments below.

"Commissioner Bailey, your efforts and help have been appreciated. Taking the time for one extra meeting, or when in our area taking a minute to stop by and see how we were. As

Commissioner you always made yourself available for regulatory questions, and helpful anytime we had a need to reach out to the Commission for any guidance. But not just for utility businesses, but, as I witnessed, for your constituents as well. Always ready to dig in, get to the bottom of an issue, so that he could lead, guide and assist those in need. The Central District has greatly benefitted from your leadership. Thank

you." —**Greg Hayman, President, TecInfo, Inc.**



"Southern Pine appreciates our relationship with the Public Service Commission and the opportunity to have worked with Brent and his staff. We wish him well in all future endeavors." —**Chris Rhodes, President & CEO, Southern Pine Electric Power Association**

"I want to thank Commissioner Bailey for his excellent work at the Commission. He was definitely passionate about his work, and we knew that we could count on him for his support whether it was related to broadband expansion or a solar facility installation. He will be missed, and we wish him well in his future endeavors."

—**David O'Bryan, General Manager, Delta Electric Power Association**



"I've worked with Commissioner Bailey since 2019 and have come to appreciate his dedication to the working folks in Mississippi. His commitment to protecting Mississippi's vital underground infrastructure was obvious as you could count on his desire to better understand the issues rather than taking sides. Thanks, Commissioner for being on the front row and for your gift of listening to understand!"

—**Roger Cox, President, ACTS Now Inc.**

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“Wishing Commissioner Brent Bailey, the best of luck in future endeavors and a special thank you for being a Damage Prevention Champion and making Mississippi a safer place to live and work over the past four years.” —**Fred D. Johnson, President, Mississippi 811, Inc.**



“It has been an honor working with Commissioner Bailey over the last 4 years. He was very valuable in helping with some issues in the rural water industry. I found him to be a man of his word, with integrity, and a strong conviction. He has a strong desire to be a public servant.” —**Kirby Mayfield, CEO, Mississippi Rural Water Association**

“Commissioner Bailey’s clear commitment to the people of central Mississippi and his forward-thinking, innovative spirit has allowed renewable energy to build a future in this part of the state. It has been an honor to work with Commissioner Bailey over the years to bring long-term economic investment in the form of clean energy to central Mississippi.



EDP Renewables takes lot of pride in our Mississippi solar projects and we’re very grateful for the warm welcome Commissioner Bailey has given our team as we begin our long-term operational presence in the state.” —**Jeff Jacobs, Senior Project Manager, EDP Renewables**



“It was a pleasure working with Brent on OMS business. He always brought a consensus-building approach to our work and steadfastly advocated for what’s best for Mississippi and its ratepayers. I also thoroughly enjoyed Brent’s sports expertise. It was always a pleasure talking with Brent about his beloved Mississippi State Bulldogs!” —**Tyler Huebner, Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (pictured in the middle)**

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"Commissioner Bailey has been a breath of fresh air in the OMS community. He's so well respected across the MISO footprint for his hard work and fun approach to everything. Brent was so well respected amongst the OMS board that I've felt like a grief counselor for other commissioners ever since the election results were finalized. I'm going to miss many things about working with Commissioner Bailey but first and foremost will be the times that we were together where we just geeked out about nuclear energy. Brent and I are both super energy nerds deep down. Brent would frequently send exciting nuclear energy news my way because he knew it was my favorite topic. Brent became my most reliable source of news on nuclear energy and I'm going to miss his weekly newsletter as it was one of the most well researched pieces of "trade press" around. Given how awesome Brent is and his passion for the energy industry, I look forward to see what great things he'll do next in this space. The energy industry needs more Brent Baileys!" —**Marcus Hawkins, Executive Director, Organization of MISO States (OMS)**

"I first met Brent on a trip with OMS Executive director Marcus Hawkins to Jackson to lobby the Commission for a Mississippi Commissioner to become actively engaged in OMS. Previously, Mississippi had largely delegated OMS responsibilities to staff. Little did we realize how quickly our recruiting mission would be a success because before we left Jackson, Commissioner Bailey was assigned to the task and we were dining together at a barbeque joint to discuss his involvement. Brent hit the ground running. In fact, Commissioner Bailey could write a training manual for commissioners on how to effectively engage in OMS. While the learning curve is steep, Brent quickly became an effective voice. He worked hard with his staff to understand the issues and Mississippi's position. But what was unique and effective about Brent's style is he also took time to understand where other states stood on issues and why. That enabled him to work with his colleagues throughout the footprint to find common ground. His approach helped to create bridges between MISO south and north if not always in the form of direct alignment on issues, at least friendships and professional relationships where discussion and understanding could grow. Brent's southern manners and humor, his devotion to the issues, and his work ethic made OMS better and he will be greatly missed as a colleague and friend." —**Julie Fedorchak, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission (pictured left)** Commissioner Fedorchak was recently elected as the new organization president for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.



"At the Gulf Coast Power Association (GCPA), our mission is to promote an improved understanding of issues and opportunities impacting the U.S. electricity market. We have 4 major conferences each year and we were delighted to have Commissioner Bailey at our last two MISO SPP conferences. He added a lot to the discussion on issues related to the growth in renewable energy, electric transmission, reliability challenges posed by extreme weather and the challenges of balancing the interests of disparate stakeholders in the Gulf Coast region. We greatly appreciated his participation and perspectives on how these issues affect electricity consumers in Mississippi. We wish him all the best and hope to see him at future GCPA events." —**Kim Casey, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Power Association**



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"I've had the pleasure of knowing Brent Bailey since 2016, when I became a part of the Southeast Climate & Energy Network, the largest network in the Southeast dedicated to advancing clean energy and climate justice across eleven states in the region. Throughout these years, Brent has been both a trusted colleague and a dear friend. He initially served as the co-chair of our renewable energy working group and later took on the role of Secretary on our Board of Directors, showcasing his commitment and leadership over the past five years.

Brent impresses with his affable nature, conscientious approach, and extensive knowledge in the field. Working alongside him has been a rewarding experience, and I have full confidence in highlighting his exceptional contributions as a public servant in the State of Mississippi over the past four years.

Brent Bailey is not only a valuable asset to our organization but also an overall great guy, making our collaborative efforts both productive and enjoyable." —*Alexander Easdale, Executive*

Director, Southeast Climate & Energy Network



News & Notes

TVA Proposes New Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant in Mississippi

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) [announced](#) last week that it plans to build a new natural gas-fired electric generation facility near Caledonia, Mississippi. The proposed New Caledonia Generation Site would provide approximately 500 Megawatts (MW) of new generation capacity consisting of six natural gas-fired combustion turbines. TVA claims the new facility will help meet increasing electricity demand, address decarbonization goals and improve system reliability.

TVA provides power to nearly 12 million customers across seven states and has proposed eight new generation projects since 2020 worth about 6,600 MW, or approximately a fifth of the utility's total energy capacity. The public can [comment](#) on this project proposal for Mississippi until Jan. 19. The announcement comes on the heels of TVA's announcement that it is officially retiring the coal-fired Bull Run Fossil Plant in Claxton, TN. The 950 MW facility has been in operation since 1967. TVA says it is planning to retire its entire coal fleet by 2035.



COP Delegates Have a Tough Road Ahead

The 2023 UN Climate Change Conference convened on November 30 and will run through December 12, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). This is the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties thus the meetings are dubbed COP 28. COP 28 leadership is focusing on four primary objectives:

- Fast-tracking the energy transition and slashing emissions before 2030;
- Transforming climate finance, by delivering on old promises and setting the framework for a new deal on finance;



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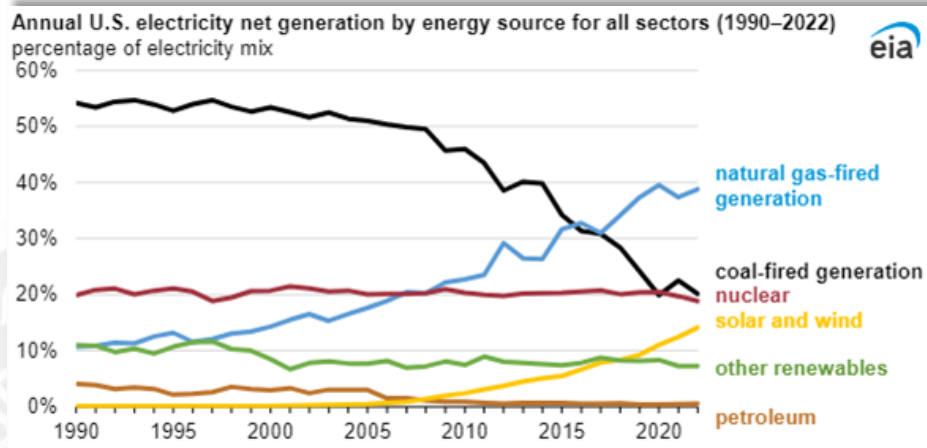
- Putting nature, people, lives, and livelihoods at the heart of climate action; and
- Mobilizing for the most inclusive COP ever.

Although countries are making lofty commitments for reducing emissions, growing carbon free energy resources and supporting at-risk regions, the ability to coalesce around a common set of directives is extremely difficult in today's complex global geo-political environment.

Despite the drive to achieve global climate action built on aggressive emission reductions, the International Energy Agency (IEA)

projects that global energy-related CO₂ emissions from the consumption of coal, liquid fuels, and natural gas will increase over the next 30 years. Growing populations and incomes increase fossil fuel consumption and emissions, particularly in the industrial and electric power sectors. These trends offset emissions reductions from improved energy efficiency, lower carbon intensity of fuel mix, and growth in non-fossil fuel energy.

The IEA's predictions are based on international laws and regulations adopted through March 2023 and on U.S. projections published in the *Annual Energy Outlook 2023*, which considers U.S. laws and regulations as of November 2022.



What is the current state of U.S. energy emissions? U.S. energy-related CO₂ emissions increased slightly in 2022 to 4,939 MMmt from 4,905 MMmt in 2021, driven by a 2% increase in transportation sector emissions and a combined 1% increase in the residential and commercial sectors. Industrial sector emissions declined by 2% as industrial activity decreased by 3% over the period. The increase in nation-wide emissions occurred despite an 8% decline in coal-fired power generation because of retiring coal-fired generating capacity. Natural gas-fired and new zero-carbon power sources acted as substitutes for coal-fired generation.

The discussions around climate change, emission reductions and related topics has not occurred at the upper levels of state government in Mississippi. Economic development and other matters take precedent, which is completely understandable as we look to raise incomes and opportunities for our state workforce. But some preliminary steps are taking place as consumer and voter voices come together under state and federal policy.

November 19 was World Toilet Day



As Americans were gearing up for Thanksgiving or heading to the woods to go hunting, we failed to recognize a very important day. A day that signifies what make us a civilized, modern society that enjoys a high quality of life. That day was World Toilet Day! World Toilet Day is aimed at raising awareness about sanitation issues and emphasizing that responsible toilet flushing and wastewater management play a large part in protecting critical infrastructure, the environment, and local communities. Know how the [things you flush](#) down the toilet impacts wastewater treatment equipment!



Highlights from the December 5, 2023, Special Meeting

- ☑ **The Commission** issued a [Notice of Public Meeting](#) to conduct a remote open meeting telephonically at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, to consider **Atmos Energy Corporation's** Stable Rate Adjustment Rider and System Integrity Rider.
- ☑ At the meeting, the **Commission** considered and issued an [Order](#) approving **Atmos Energy Corporation's** System Integrity Rider [pursuant to the Joint Stipulation Between Atmos Energy Corporation and the Public Utilities Staff](#). The **Staff** and **Atmos Energy** agree that the incremental System Integrity Rider revenue requirement and the adjustments to the filing resulting from the stipulated provisions is \$10,968,938, which will result in a projected monthly rate impact of \$4.16 per month for 11 months for a typical residential customer using 5 mcf per month. **The Commission** also considered and issued an [Order](#) approving **Atmos Energy's** Stable Rate Annual Evaluation for the 12 months Ending March 31, 2023. The Stable Rate Adjustment agreed to by **Staff** and **Atmos Energy** will result in a revenue adjustment of \$5,091,936, resulting in a projected monthly impact of \$1.37 per month for 11 months for a typical residential customer using 5 mcf per month. The result of these two approvals is a total combined rate impact of \$5.53 per month. If the **Commission** waited to bring this matter forward at the regular Docket Meeting on December 14th, 2023, for consideration, **Atmos Energy** would have had to recover their revenue requirement over a 10-month period, resulting in a higher combined rate impact of \$6.73.

Last Week at the MPSC

- ☐ **The Public Utilities Staff** filed the Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment Audit Reports for the period July 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023 for the following entities: [Atmos Energy](#); [CenterPoint Energy](#); [Spire Mississippi Inc.](#)
- ☐ **Telecom Management, Inc.** d/b/a **Pioneer Telephone** filed its [Notification](#) of Market Exit and Request to Cancel Authority as it is no longer providing telecommunications services in Mississippi and stopped providing those services effective December 31, 2022.
- ☐ **Hinds Solar, LLC** filed [Pre-Filed Testimony](#) and [Affidavit](#) in regards to its Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) Authorizing the Construction and Operation of a Solar Electric Generating and Storage Facility in **Hinds County**. The MPSC will be holding a [public hearing](#) on this matter on December 20, 2023.
- ☐ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Motion](#) to Amend Scheduling Order in regard to the Supplemental Petition of **Southern Spirit Transmission LLC** for CPCN for the Proposed Southern Spirit Transmission Project.
- ☐ **Fusion Cloud Services, LLC** filed its [Revision](#) for MS Tariff No. 11 (Local Exchange) which adds Basic Line, Basic Plus, Essentials, and Value Line business services to the tariff. **Fusion Cloud Services, LLC** respectfully requests an effective date of January 1, 2024, for the filing.
- ☐ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** also filed its [Petition](#) for a CPCN to Continue to Make Improvements to and Modernize Its Distribution Infrastructure in **Smith** and **Simpson Counties** by constructing, owning, operating, and maintaining new distribution facilities and rebuilding the existing distribution line facilities including associated rights-of-way, substation terminal facilities and all other related equipment and assets.
- ☐ **The Commission** issued a [Recommended Order](#) approving the Petition of **Beaman Renewable LLC** for a CPCN Authorizing the Construction, Ownership, and Operation of a \$140 million, 90 MWac solar electric generating facility plus battery energy storage system in **Lincoln County**.



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- ✎ The Commission issued a [Recommended Order](#) approving the Petition of McNew Renewables, LLC for a CPCN Authorizing the Construction, Ownership, and Operation of a \$160 million, 100 MWac/100 MWh solar electric generating facility plus battery storage system in Washington County.
- ✎ United Commercial Telecom, LLC filed an [Entry of Appearance](#) in regards to the Application of United Commercial Telecom, LLC for a CPCN to Provide Access Telecommunication Services throughout the state.
- ✎ MCImetro Access Transmission d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services filed its Local Exchange Services [Tariff No. 1](#) requesting that proposed revisions become effective December 31, 2023.
- ✎ AP VIII Olympus VoteCo, LLC, together with Olympus' indirect subsidiary Intrado Communications, LLC, and 46 Labs, LLC filed their [Joint Application](#) Transfer of Control requesting that the Commission approve to consummate a transaction resulting in the acquisition of ultimate control of Intrado by 46 Labs.

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



Last week I had the pleasure of serving as a judge to help select the next Ag Ambassador for the MS Farm Bureau Federation Women's Leadership Program. Eight talented ladies from across the state competed for scholarship money and the chance to represent MS Farm Bureau and general agriculture for the next year.

I greatly appreciate the support and mentorship of Irl Dean Rhodes over the years.



This week, I have been attending the MISO Board of Directors and Advisory Committee Meeting. The members of the Organization of MISO States (OMS) also used this time to meet to discuss Order 2222 implementation, LRTP futures modeling, resource accreditation, load forecasting, expedited project reviews and more.

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pictured with MISO Board Member Phyllis E. Currie



pictured with MISO Board Member Barbara J. Krumsiek



pictured with OMS Exec. Dir. Marcus Hawkins, Arkansas Commissioner Katie Anderson, Michigan Commissioner Dan Scripps and Minnesota Commissioner Joe Sullivan



While at the MISO Board of Directors meeting, I also participated remotely in a panel discussion at the Southeast Renewable Energy Conference with fellow Commissioners Tim Echols of Georgia, Karen Kemerait of North Carolina and Davante Lewis of Louisiana. We covered a range of issues that both drives and impedes clean energy development in the Southeast U.S.



The **DECEMBER**
DOCKET
MEETING will take place on December 14th at 10 a.m. in the MPSC Hearing Room.



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

Electric Companies	28
Water/Sewer	5
Telecommunications	2



Newsletter

Keep an eye out for our upcoming 200th newsletter next week!