

# A Letter from your Commissioner De'Keither A. Stamps

Dear Central Mississippi Residents,

It has been my honor to serve you over the last two months, as we have all hit the ground running. January and February seemed to fly by without notice as we endured an extremely busy schedule. I've enjoyed traveling throughout the Central District, visiting with local officials, utilities, residents and business owners. The Mississippi Public Service Commission has a lot going on in the coming months. A couple of important matters happening at the Commission during this time include:

- **Holly Springs Utility District** – The Commission is encouraging the Legislature to give the PSC jurisdiction to investigate the quality of service being provided by the Holly Springs Utility District [HSUD]. If the PSC was to make such a finding, it could petition a Chancery Court to place the HSUD into a receivership.
- **Safe Digging and Natural Gas** – The Commission is encouraging the Legislature to increase the dollar amount of penalties for violations of pipeline safety laws. We are working with Congressman Bennie Thompson to ensure federal accountability alongside state accountability for all parties involved in the natural gas explosions and damage to the gas lines across Mississippi. I [remind all Mississippians](#) to immediately report any natural gas smells in or around your home or business.

Last week, I joined my colleagues and fellow Mississippi commissioners in Washington, D.C., to attend the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' [NARUC] Winter Policy Summit. Nearly 2,000 attendees and speakers from state and federal agencies, industry, advocacy organizations and more gathered to set policy, share best practices and discuss crucial industry issues. The knowledge gained and ideas shared at the summit will make a difference in our work moving forward at the Commission.

I appreciate the many classes and opportunities I've experienced over these last several weeks in the Central District as a newly elected Commissioner. Feel free to reach out to my office with any questions, suggestions or feedback. Let's continue to move Mississippi forward together!

Sincerely,

*Commissioner De'Keither Stamps*



## 99 easy ways to save energy & money!

We invite you to follow along on our [Facebook](#) and additional [social media channels](#) as we've recently shared



February 5, 2024

some of the top easy ways to save energy and money. During my recent introduction visit and tour at Southern Pine Electric, I came across one of their booklets, *99 Easy Ways to Save*, which will help you discover new ways to lower your usage, conserve energy and spend less on your electric bill. I encourage all utility customers to practice these tips. High summer temps are right around the corner!




## The Central District recognizes #EWeek2024

We recently wrapped up Engineers Week 2024 by sharing a [video](#) with messages from some of our utility engineers in the Central District.



## HAPPENING AT THE COMMISSION:

### MARCH DOCKET MEETING— MARCH 5, 2024

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

### WORK SESSION FOR HOLLY SPRINGS UTILITY DISTRICT— JANUARY 31, 2024

 Link to hearing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7rPCARvu7s>



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## CONGRATULATIONS, COMMISSIONER CARR!

Congratulations to my colleague, Southern District Commissioner Carr, for being selected to serve as Mississippi's representative on the Organization of MISO States, Inc. (OMS) Board of Directors.

OMS is the regional monitoring committee for the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), representing regulatory entities in 15 states and Manitoba, Canada. The purpose of OMS is to coordinate regulatory oversight among its members and respond to developments regarding the generation and transmission of electricity, in addition to making recommendations to MISO, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and other relevant governmental entities and state utility commissions as appropriate to express the positions of OMS member agencies.

I know Commissioner Carr will do an excellent job representing Mississippi!

## Entergy Mississippi offers bill management and assistance options for winter season

Entergy Mississippi is [offering bill management tools and assistance options](#) for the recent winter season that entailed frigid conditions, which can easily drive up energy use and bills. For Entergy MS customers experiencing financial hardship, check out the variety of bill assistance options available and contact our office if you need assistance or to speak with one of our utility complaint investigators.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## SHOUT-OUTS



*Congratulations to the Raymond Rangers! For the second time in four years, the Raymond Rangers are state champions. They defeated District rival McComb 53-28 in the 4A Championship.*

*Congratulations to Florence High School's MHSAA 5A State Boys & Girls 2024 Soccer Champs!*

**TEAMWORK HAS INCREDIBLE POWER IN MISSISSIPPI!**



## Legislation at the Commission

The Commission continues to track legislation during the 2024 Mississippi Regular Legislative Session. Items being tracked by the Commission include:

- ◆ **HB 187** — TO REVISE THE ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATIONS. *House Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Utilities*
- ◆ **HB 540** — TO REVISE THE GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO ALLOW FOR LOCAL GOVERNING AUTHORITIES TO HAVE DISCRETION ON SUSPENDING CERTAIN UTILITY SHUTOFFS DURING AN EMERGENCY. *House Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Utilities*
- ◆ **HB 594** — TO PROVIDE THAT MUNICIPAL OWNED PUBLIC UTILITIES SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IF SUCH RATE INCREASE IS FOR CUSTOMERS WHO RESIDE MORE THAN ONE (1) MILE OUTSIDE OF MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES. *House Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Utilities*
- ◆ **HB 698** — AN ACT TO REPEAL SECTIONS 27-19-21 AND 27-19-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH IMPOSE AN ANNUAL TAX ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND HYBRID VEHICLES IN ADDITION TO OTHER TAXES FOR WHICH THE VEHICLES ARE LIABLE. *House Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means*





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Legislation continued...

- ◆ **HB 752** — AN ACT TO REENACT SECTIONS 77-1-1 THROUGH 77-1-6, 77-1-11, 77-1-15, 77-1-25 THROUGH 77-1-43, 77-1-47 AND 77-1-49, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBE ITS POWERS AND DUTIES. *House Do pass from committee on House Public Utilities*
- ◆ **HB 1116** — TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BE FUNDED BY APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND. *House Do pass from committee on House Public Utilities*
- ◆ **HB 1117** — TO REQUIRE CERTAIN TAXES COLLECTED FROM UTILITIES TO BE CREDITED TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF REGULATION FUND TO COVER THE EXPENSES OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF. *House Do pass as substituted from committee House Public Utilities*
- ◆ **HB 1484** — TO AUTHORIZE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO CANCEL A MUNICIPALITY'S CERTIFICATE TO PROVIDE SERVICE GREATER THAN ONE MILE OUTSIDE ITS CORPORATE BOUNDARIES UPON A FINDING THAT THE MUNICIPALITY DID NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICE. *House Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Utilities*
- ◆ **HB 1522** — AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE OWNERS OR OPERATORS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES PROVIDING SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS THROUGH UNDERGROUND UTILITIES LINES SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES. *House Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Utilities*
- ◆ **SB 2283** — TO EXTEND THE DATE OF REPEAL ON THE PROVISIONS OF LAW CREATING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND DUTIES. *Senate Do pass from committee on Senate Government Structure*
- ◆ **SB 2453** — TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO CANCEL A MUNICIPALITY'S CERTIFICATE TO PROVIDE SERVICE GREATER THAN ONE MILE OUTSIDE ITS CORPORATE BOUNDARIES UPON A FINDING THAT THE MUNICIPALITY DID NOT PROVIDE REASONABLY ADEQUATE SERVICE. *Senate Do pass from committee on Senate Energy*
- ◆ **SB 2455** — TO RECONSTITUTE THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FROM AN ELECTED COMMISSION TO AN APPOINTED COMMISSION. *Senate Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Government Structure*
- ◆ **SB 2603** — TO DEFINE THE TERMS "LOCATE REQUEST TICKET" AND "TRENCHLESS EXCAVATION". *Senate Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Energy*
- ◆ **SB 2604** — TO ALLOW PUBLIC UTILITIES TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTRONIC BIDS IN PROCESSES WHICH REQUIRE COMPETITIVE BIDDING. *Senate Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Energy*



#ManOnAMission #DeKeitherStamps #CommissionerStamps





GET CONNECTED!



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