



WELCOME TO THE CENTRAL DISTRICT'S

Monthly Newsletter

Docket Day

LINEMEN APPRECIATION DAY



At the April Docket Meeting, Commissioner DeKeither Stamps, alongside his fellow commissioners, proudly declared April 18 as Linemen Appreciation Day.

Mississippi's linemen are the unsung heroes and the backbone of our state's energy infrastructure. In times of crisis and catastrophe, they run toward danger—restoring power and ensuring that communities across Mississippi remain connected and safe.

Commissioner Stamps and the entire Central District Office salute these brave men and women for their unwavering dedication, technical expertise, and commitment to keeping the lights on.



In this newsletter you will find:

Latest updates, resources, and more. Keep Reading!



Canton Municipal Utilities Hearing

COMMISSIONER STAMPS ADVANCES OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CANTON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

At the recent Public Service Commission hearing on water and sewer rates for Canton Municipal Utilities (CMU), Commissioner DeKeither Stamps presided over the session where a rate increase was approved—an action driven by a firm belief that low rates can be just as damaging as high ones when they prevent us from building systems that are safe, sustainable, and future-ready.

Commissioner Stamps made it clear: “No more failing systems.” For too long, the residents of Canton have borne the consequences of aging, inadequate infrastructure. That era must come to an end.

As part of our ongoing regulatory oversight and commitment to improving utility performance, the Commission has formally requested from CMU a detailed overview of all recent and ongoing infrastructure improvements within its water and sewer systems. Additionally, CMU has been asked to submit a list of critical needs and planned investments essential to building a high-performing, resilient utility system—this includes capital projects, operational support, technology upgrades, and staffing considerations.

To ensure continued progress and accountability, quarterly performance reporting requirements will be implemented moving forward. Transparency, reliability, and community impact will be the core benchmarks.

The message is simple but powerful: every Mississippian deserves reliable, modern infrastructure that supports both quality of life and economic growth. Commissioner Stamps and the Central District team are committed to making that vision a reality—starting with Canton.



COMMISSIONER STAMPS HONORS LINEMEN AT TWIN COUNTY EPA EVENT

Commissioner DeKeither Stamps was proud to join Twin County Electric Power Association in celebrating the outstanding work of their linemen. Their expertise, courage, and around-the-clock commitment are essential to daily life in Mississippi—and it was deeply meaningful for Commissioner Stamps to take part in a moment that recognized their invaluable service.

Investing in the Future

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

In recognition of National Community College Month, Commissioner DeKeither Stamps visited East Central Community College during its Business, Education, and Health Care Fair. He was inspired by the energy, brilliance, and ambition of Mississippi's next generation of leaders. Commissioner Stamps has long championed community colleges as pillars of opportunity—institutions that are from the community, for the community. These schools play a critical role in preparing students for high-demand careers and helping drive local economic growth.



Resource Roundup

The Magnolia Health Foundation offers a Diaper Bank to support families with essential baby items. The Bank is open Monday – Friday.



Economic Development Luncheon: Collaborating for a Stronger Central Mississippi

Commissioner Stamps also joined Central District Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons and local leaders for a high-impact economic development luncheon. The focus: unlocking new opportunities and charting a path toward long-term growth in the Central District.

Through meaningful dialogue and strategic partnerships, Commissioner Stamps reaffirmed his commitment to working hand-in-hand with local officials to ensure that economic development is not just a buzzword—but a reality for communities across the region.

Meet Our Newest Team Member



DR. LEMIA JENKINS ~ CHIEF OF STAFF

Dr. LeMia Jenkins is a strategic public affairs and communications executive who serves as President of Brownkey Consulting Group. Brownkey works with companies across the globe specializing in public affairs, strategic communications, marketing, business development, and strategy.

In addition to leading Brownkey, Dr. Jenkins was appointed by the Mississippi Public Service Commissioner to lead the office's operations, drive strategic initiatives, and oversee organizational performance. Her work focuses on regulatory oversight, industry collaboration, and advancing policies that support a reliable utility infrastructure.

Previously, Jenkins served as the first-ever Chief Public Affairs & Sustainability Officer and Chief Communications Officer at Pinterest, where she led media relations, public affairs, and sustainability efforts. She was instrumental in shaping Pinterest's corporate social responsibility strategy, bringing together ESG, sustainability, social impact, and corporate giving teams into a unified department to accelerate progress toward a more sustainable and responsible future.

With an expansive background in public affairs, strategic communications, marketing, business development, and operations, Jenkins has led key functions across the corporate, technology, government, and entertainment sectors. Prior to Pinterest, she was the Director of Global Communications and Media Relations for Walmart and the Director of External Affairs for Caesars Entertainment. Earlier in her career, she served as Communications Director for the Hillary for America campaign and was the first Director of Federal Relations for Jackson State University, following her tenure as a senior communications and policy strategist for multiple Members of Congress.

As an influential expert and leader, Jenkins has received numerous awards and industry recognition. In 2021, PR Week named her one of the industry's "In-House Elites" and a "Women to Watch" honoree. She was also a featured speaker at Fortune's Most Powerful Women Summit and recognized as one of Essence's 8 Black Women to Watch in Corporate America.

Jenkins holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from Tougaloo College and earned a Master of Public Health (Marketing and Health Communications) from The George Washington University. She has also studied Healthcare at the Hebrew University in Israel and holds a Doctorate in Education from the University of Mississippi. Additionally, she is a former adjunct professor at the University of Arkansas.

FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER STAMPS

A MONTH OF PROGRESS,
ACCOUNTABILITY, AND
COMMUNITY

This month's newsletter captures a pivotal period of progress, tough conversations, and renewed commitment across the Central District. From tackling long-standing infrastructure challenges to recognizing the unsung heroes of our utilities, we've stayed focused on what matters most: delivering reliable services, restoring public trust, and putting people first.

Whether it was standing alongside our linemen at Twin County EPA, engaging directly with students at East Central Community College, or leading regulatory hearings to hold utility systems accountable, every moment this month has reinforced our mission—to build a more resilient, transparent, and community-driven future for Mississippi.

This newsletter is more than a recap—it's a reflection of the work, the voices, and the shared momentum that are shaping real outcomes. We encourage you to explore, stay engaged, and continue holding us to the standard our communities deserve.

