

October 20, 2022



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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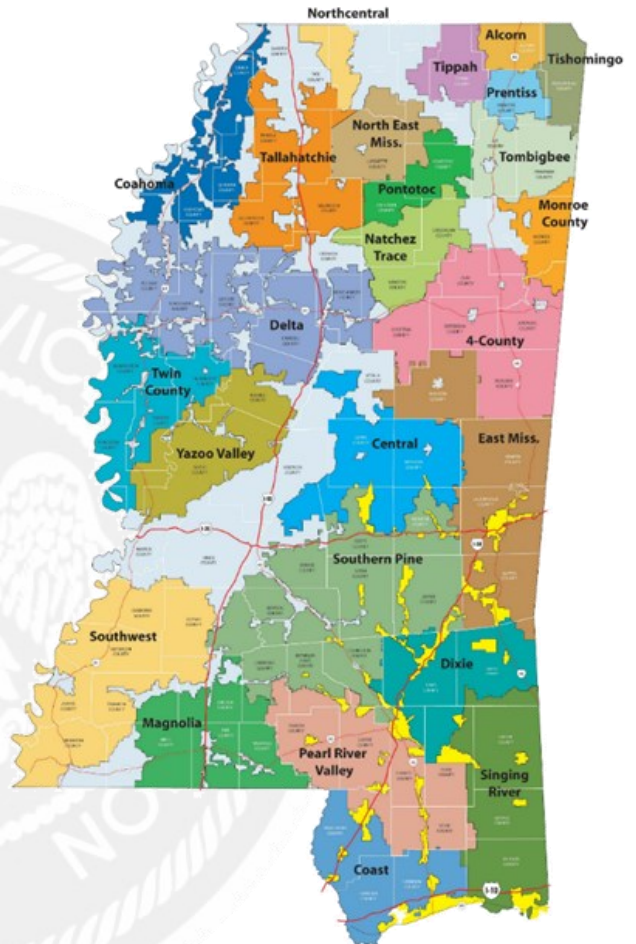
Mississippi's Electric Cooperatives Provide Members More Than Power

To continue our recent theme of observing special designations during October, we are happy to recognize National Cooperative Month. Cooperatives bring a variety of resources and services to consumers and play an important role across the United States. Not only do they expand options to consumers, but they bring increased economic resources for rural communities. Through better infrastructure, added educational support and employment opportunities, cooperatives strengthen rural populations.

National Cooperatives Month is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a proven way to do business and build resilient, diverse communities. Under the 2022 theme of "Co-ops Build Economic Power," this year's National Cooperatives Month is a chance to lift up the cooperative business model as a trusted way to build an economy that empowers everyone.

Cooperatives are a vital pillar of the rural economy and contribute essential goods and services to rural Mississippi. Many communities rely on cooperatives to provide locally grown food, housing, electricity, financial services, internet, retail services, and so much more. Without cooperatives to connect rural communities to these goods and services, they might otherwise do without.

Nowhere is the role of cooperatives more exemplified in improving the lives of those in rural communities that through the vision and leadership of Mississippi's rural electric cooperatives, also know as electric power associations. Today, there are 25 electric distribution cooperatives and one generation-and-transmission cooperative providing electric service across 85% of Mississippi's land area and to 50% of state's electric meters. Cooperative Energy provides wholesale power to 11 electric power associations primarily in south and west Mississippi. The TVA provides wholesale power to 14 electric power associations in central, east, and north Mississippi.



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In addition to providing reliable, affordable electricity, 17 of the state's 25 electric cooperatives have formed affiliate subsidiaries to finance the construction of fiber optic infrastructure capable of delivering affordable, reliable, high-quality broadband internet services to homes and businesses in those service areas. The COVID pandemic confirmed the need for reliable, high-speed internet to receive and transmit information related to work, education, health, recreation, economic development, and more. Electric cooperatives across Mississippi are making good on their commitment to deliver a world class product to its member-customers.

Collectively, the 17 electric cooperatives deploying broadband throughout their service areas are expecting to pass a major milestone in the next couple of days. It is our understanding that Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi CEO Michael Callahan is planning a big announcement early next week and will be sharing numbers at that time. So stay tuned!



I enjoyed attending the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi (ECM) in Biloxi back in September along with approximately 400 attendees. Reports from current ECM President and Alcorn County Electric CEO Eddie Howard, ECM CEO Michael Callahan and Youth Leaders Council rep Connor Gibson indicated that supply chain issues, electric vehicles, energy generation transition, cybersecurity, worker safety, health insurance and broadband internet are top of mind for electric cooperatives leaders. The program took a deep dive into these and other matters key to providing reliable, affordable energy to rural Mississippians.



The ECM Annual Meeting provides an opportunity to visit with the CEO/GM of the various electric cooperatives that serve customers in the Central District. It was a pleasure to visit with Brian Long (Central EPA), Chris Rhodes (Southern Pine Electric), Randy Carroll (East Mississippi Electric Power Association), and David O'Bryan (Delta Electric Power Association).

As businesses face inflation and supply chain challenges, cooperatives provide stability and opportunity. Today, there are more than 30,000 cooperatives operating in the country and these co-ops account for nearly 2 million jobs and 350 million memberships. American cooperatives generate more than \$660 billion in annual revenue and have more than \$3.1 trillion in assets.

National Cooperative Month informs others about the sustainability and unique structure of the cooperative business model, which is based on the Seven Cooperative Principles: *Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member*

Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community. These principles guide the cooperatives directive of putting the needs of their members first.

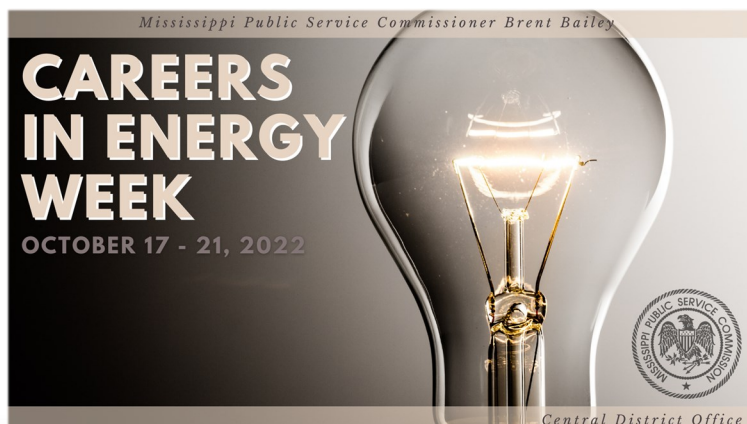


I also had the pleasure of visiting with David O'Bryan (Delta Electric Power Association), Michael Neely (Yazoo Valley Electric Power Association), and Kevin Bonds (Southwest Electric). We appreciate all of you for providing affordable and reliable service to some of the most rural parts of the Central District in Mississippi!



Careers in Energy Week

October 17-21 is celebrated as **Careers in Energy Week** across the nation to bring awareness to the diverse job opportunities in the energy sector, including utilities, renewable energy, oil and gas and more. Energy employers are actively looking for those that want to work with their hands; those that want to help keep our nation on the move; and those that want to sustainably utilize our nation's multitude of natural resources. Career opportunities include legal & policy advisor, facilities manager, industrial machinery mechanic, power plant operator, renewable energy technician, transmission system operator, accountant and so much more!



More than six million people work in the energy sector in the United States. The work of these professionals is essential, rewarding and always in demand. Because of the knowledge and skills that are required, energy employees are generally well compensated and, in many instances, earning above national averages. [Get Into Energy](#) (GIE) was designed and launched by the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) to build awareness among those looking for a stable, rewarding, well-paying career. Not only does GIE help you understand what energy employers need in terms of skills and competencies, GIE also helps you find energy jobs through its job search platform. Check out the current [energy jobs available in Mississippi](#).

Nuclear Science Week

Nuclear Science Week is also recognized during the week of October 17-21. Nuclear Science Week is a week-long celebration focusing on all aspects of nuclear science and how nuclear science plays a vital role in the lives of Americans. Today, across the United States, 93 nuclear reactors at 55 power plant sites across 28 states power tens of millions of homes and anchor local communities. Nearly 100,000 people are employed in the nuclear power sector, which generates 20% of the nation's electricity.



I currently serve on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues-Waste Disposal, and I'm a member of the Nuclear Energy Partnership launched by NARUC and the Department of Energy. Serving on these committees provides me the opportunity to interact with the innovators of advanced nuclear technologies that hold promise for less expensive, more efficient and even safer ways of generating electricity from nuclear. Check out one of our July newsletters— [Small Modular Reactors: The Future of Nuclear Energy](#) —that focuses on advanced nuclear reactor designs which could represent the cutting edge in nuclear technology for civilian use and that not only produce electricity, but can also produce drinking water, hydrogen, and heat for industries and buildings.



Solar Across the River

This newsletter has been regularly providing its readers with information on the scores of large-scale solar projects that have been approved by the MPSC, are under review, have been publicly announced, or are in the transmission interconnection impact analysis queue. Due to various reasons, solar developers are investing hundreds of millions of dollars in Mississippi, adding new energy capacity and diversifying the state's energy generation portfolio.

Individuals, institutions and corporations are also investing in solar in different ways just across the Mississippi River over in Arkansas. Below are three examples of solar energy applications and the benefits it provides to customers.



Solar and Agriculture: Bearskin Farm, a cotton, corn, rice, soybeans and wheat production operation, is installing a 2-megawatt solar array composed of 4,500 panels that will produce about 3.6 million kilowatt hours annually. The solar power will be used power irrigation, grain drying and storage of crops. Solar gives farmers the ability to have control over their electricity costs.

Solar and Higher Education: The University of Arkansas is expected to save \$200,000 in electricity costs in year one and millions of dollars over the life of new 25-acre solar facility located just off campus. The university is actively pursuing additional renewable energy development opportunities as part of its ongoing effort to reduce financial risk while being an environmentally responsible campus.



Solar and Corporations: Entergy Arkansas is building a 2,100 acre, 250 MW solar facility that will help power the manufacturing operations of U.S. Steel in Mississippi County. The solar facility, Driver Solar, was key in helping attract U.S. Steel to Arkansas and will help the corporation meet its robust sustainability goals. It will also help U.S. Steel deliver sustainable steel solutions to its customers.



Last Week at the MPSC

- ☞ **Great River Utility Operating Co., LLC** filed its [Verification of Notice](#) to Customers to Establish Initial and Temporary Rates for Water Service for Parks Subdivision in **Noxubee County**. The proposed initial and temporary rate for wastewater disposal service is \$15.00 per month.
- ☞ **The Commission** issued a [Recommended Order](#) approving the Petition of **Hattiesburg Farm, LLC's** Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing the construction, operation, and maintenance of the expansion of the 50 MW solar generation facility located in Hattiesburg. **Hattiesburg Farm, LLC** intends to construct and operate the Facility in **Forrest County**. The entire electricity output from the expanded Facility will be sold to **Mississippi Power Company** under the existing power purchase agreement.
- ☞ **The Commission** issued a [Notice of Hearing](#) for the Petition Of **Fable Solar, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing Construction, Ownership, and Operation of a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Stone County**. The hearing will be held at 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, in the **Commission's** Court Room in the Woolfolk Building at 501 N West St, Jackson, MS 39201.



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☞ **The Commission** also issued a [Notice of Hearing](#) for Petition of **Sunflower Solar, LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing Construction, Ownership, and Operation of a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **George County**. The hearing will be held at 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, in the **Commission's** Court Room in the Woolfolk Building at 501 N West St, Jackson, MS 39201

CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



I appreciate the invitation to visit with the Board of the Yazoo Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District (YMD) in Stoneville this week,

and share with them the status of large-scale solar development in the state. The YMD Board sought



answers to potential natural resource impacts, landowner considerations, and the direction of the market. Thank you Chairman John McKee and Vice-Chairman Gip Carter for having me. I hope to return again soon!



The MPSC's November Regular Docket Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, November 1. The meeting is open to the public and will be streamed online.





Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **31** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	28
Telecommunications	2
Water/Sewer	1

Last week, the Central District received a total of **186** 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.