



MISSISSIPPI
PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF

Charles Jim Beckett, Executive Director

Annual Report

Ending June 30, 2024

PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF

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CHARLES JIM BECKETT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Governor and Members of the
Legislature of the State of Mississippi
State Capitol
Jackson, Mississippi

Re: Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
2024 Fiscal Year Annual Report

The Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (Staff) submits this Annual Report to Governor Reeves and members of the Mississippi Legislature in compliance with Mississippi Code Ann. § 27-101-1. The Staff provides auditing, legal, and other technical assistance to the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

While a separate and independent agency, Staff works closely with the Mississippi Public Service Commission, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Commissioners for their service to the ratepayers and utilities in Mississippi.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Jim Beckett".

Charles Jim Beckett
Executive Director

COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS

The Legislature established the Public Utilities Staff in 1990 as a separate and independent agency to serve in an advisory and investigatory role in support of the Public Service Commission. The Staff is charged with representing “the broad interests of the state of Mississippi by balancing the respective concerns of residential, commercial, and industrial ratepayers; the state, its agencies and departments; and the public utilities.”

The Staff consists of the Executive Director and four divisions: Legal; Administrative Services; Water and Sewer; Electric, Gas and Communications. Additional information concerning the composition of, and services provided by the Staff, along with information related to each division, can be found at <http://www.mpus.ms.gov>.

UTILITY CASE LOAD

The Staff participates in all utility filings before the Public Service Commission. Staff reviews filings, conducts studies and makes written recommendations regarding all Commission proceedings affecting rates, service, and service areas of regulated public utilities in this state.

ELECTRIC

Two investor-owned electric utilities are subject to the Commission’s rate and service quality jurisdiction: Entergy Mississippi, LLC (“EML”), a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation, and Mississippi Power Company (“MPC”), a subsidiary of Southern Company. The 2023 Electric Utilities Summary reflecting the number of customers, average revenue per customer, and gross operating revenues, along with graphs comparing customer rates is provided as Attachment A to this report. Below is a digest of decisions by the Commission for the two rate regulated utilities, as well as the approvals of certificates of public convenience and necessity (“CPCN”) for construction of electric generating and transmitting facilities which includes an increasing number of renewable projects.

Electric Division Docket Summaries

JULY 2023

2023-UA-32 Mississippi Power Company, CPCN Hancock County

Authorized MPC for the acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance of the utility facilities located at Buccaneer State Park (“Park”) in Hancock County, Mississippi. In the past, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (“MDWFP”) has owned, operated, and maintained the utility facilities located within the Park; however, MDWFP currently lacks the technical expertise to operate these facilities and perform needed reliability upgrades.

AUGUST 2023

2022-UA-153 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, EDGE Resources

Approval of certain solar purchase power agreements (“EDGE Resources”) to meet EML’s long-term capacity and energy needs.

2023-UN-98 Mississippi Power Company, Regulatory Tax Recovery (RTR) Clause Assessments

Approval of annual RTR Clause Assessments concerning annual tax levied by the Mississippi Department of Revenue to fund the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff and the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

OCTOBER 2023

2023-UA-92 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, CPCN Madison County

Authorized EML to construct a new 230 kV substation and related distribution circuits in the Mannsdale area in Madison County, Mississippi, to accommodate existing and projected customer growth.

2023-UN-109 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, Cogeneration and Small Power Production (QF-23)

Approval of rate for qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities.

2022-UA-123 Mississippi Power Company, Amendment to Special Contract with MakerStar Capital, Inc.

Authorized an Amendment to the Special Contract between MPC and MakerStar Capital, Inc. to allow MPC to serve MakerStar’s facilities located within MPC’s certificated service area in Wiggins, Stone County, Mississippi.

2022-UA-124 Mississippi Power Company, Amendment to Special Contract with MakerStar Capital, Inc.

Authorized an Amendment to the Special Contract between MPC and MakerStar Capital, Inc. to allow MPC to serve MakerStar’s facilities located within MPC’s certificated service area in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

DECEMBER 2023

2023-UN-99 Mississippi Power Company, Special Contract with Leaf River Energy Center, LLC

Authorized a Special Contract between MPC and Leaf River Energy Center, LLC to allow MPC to serve Leaf River’s facilities located within MPC’s certificated service area in Ellisville, Jasper County, Mississippi.

JANUARY 2024

2014-UN-132 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, Ad Valorem Tax Adjustment Rider Schedule ATA-3 (Revised)

Approval of Annual Ad Valorem Tax Adjustment Rider Schedule ATA-3 (Revised) allowing the Company to recover the difference between the ad valorem taxes paid and the amount recovered in retail rates during the prior calendar year.

2014-UN-132 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, Unit Power Cost Recovery Rider Schedule UPC-4 (Revised)

Approval of annual Unit Power Cost Recovery Rider Schedule UPC-4 (Revised) for February 2024 through January 2025, allowing the Company to recover the costs of purchased wholesale baseload capacity from Entergy Arkansas, LLC.

2017-UA-189 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, MISO Cost & Revenue Rider Schedule MISO -2

Approval of annual MISO Cost & Revenue Rider Schedule MISO-2 for billing periods of February 2024 through January 2025. This Rider allows the Company to recover/refund its costs/revenues resulting from membership in MISO.

2017-UN-198 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, Grid Modernization Rider Schedule GMR-1 (Second Revised)

Approval of annual Grid Modernization Rider Schedule GMR-1 (Second Revised). This Rider allows for the recovery of costs, for billing periods of February 2024 through January 2025, associated with electric grid modernization and the expansion of fiber optic infrastructure in rural areas of MS in support of broadband expansion.

2018-UN-258 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, Restructuring Credit Rider Schedule RC-1 (Revised)

Approval of annual Restructuring Credit Rider Schedule RC-1 (Revised) for billing periods of February 2024 through January 2025 to provide customer bill credits of \$27 million over six years (\$4.5 million per year), resulting from the Company's corporate restructuring.

2022-UN-135 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, Power Management Rider Schedule PMR-14

Approval of annual Power Management Rider Schedule PMR-14 effective for the billing period February 2024 through January 2025. This Rider allows the Company to recover annual fuel hedging costs, approved consulting costs, and carrying costs on annual fuel costs over or under recoveries.

2023-UN-16 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, Net Energy Metering Rider Schedule NEM-2

Approval of annual Net Energy Metering Rider Schedule NEM-2 effective for bills rendered on and after the first billing cycle of February 2024. This Rider is a redetermination of the Value of Distributed Generation and only adjusts the amount paid to owners of distributed generation.

2023-UN-145 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, Energy Cost Recovery Rider Schedule ECR-4

Approval of annual Energy Cost Recovery Rider Schedule ECR-4 effective for billing periods February 2024 through January 2025. This is the Company's fuel adjustment clause that provides for the recovery of EML's fuel and purchased energy costs.

FEBRUARY 2024

2023-UN-161 Mississippi Power Company, Fuel Cost Recovery (FCR-2) and Energy Cost Management (ECM-2A) Factors

Approval of annual Fuel Cost Recovery (FCR-2) and Energy Cost Management (ECM-2A) Factors effective for billing periods February 2024 through January 2025. The FCR-2 rider is MPC's fuel adjustment clause through which it is allowed to recover the actual cost of fuel burned and purchased energy. The ECM-2 rider is designed to recover the company's natural gas hedging costs, carrying costs, and certain Commission approved consulting costs that are excluded from recovery in the FCR-2.

MARCH 2024

2023-AD-156 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, CPCN Smith and Simpson Counties

Authorized EML to construct new distribution facilities and rebuild existing distribution facilities to eliminate potential voltage issues in Magee and Mize areas in Smith and Simpson Counties, Mississippi.

APRIL 2024

2023-UA-88 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, CPCN Grenada County

Authorized EML to construct a new 115 kV substation and related facilities at the Grenada Industrial Park to enhance service reliability for existing commercial and residential customers in Grenada County, Mississippi.

2006-UN-511 Mississippi Power Company, System Restoration Rider Schedule (SRR)

Approval of annual System Restoration Rider Schedule (SRR). This Rider is intended to collect from customers an amount sufficient to fund MPC's Property Damage Reserve, which reserve is used to fund property damage caused by natural disasters such as hurricanes and other major weather events (the "Storm Reserve").

2012-UN-429 Mississippi Power Company, Small Business Redevelopment Rider (SBR)

Approval of a one-year extension of the Small Business Redevelopment Rider (SBR) for qualified customers.

MAY 2024

1992-UN-59 Mississippi Power Company, Environmental Compliance Overview Plan (ECO)

Approval of annual Environmental Compliance Overview Plan (ECO) to allow the Company to recover its costs associated with environmental compliance.

JUNE 2024

2012-UN-424 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, Storm Damage Rider Schedule SD-9 and Motion for Determination Relating to Storm Escrow Disbursement

Approval of EML's December 2023 Storm Escrow Disbursement of \$34,493,363.55 from its storm damage reserve escrow account to replenish its storm damage reserve for costs incurred related to the March 2023 and June 2023 storms. EML's expenditures in connection with the March 2023 and June 2023 storms were reasonable, prudent, and properly recoverable as storm damage expenses.

2012-UN-424 Entergy Mississippi, LLC Storm Damage Mitigation and Restoration Rider Schedule SDMRR-1

Authorized the implementation of the Storm Damage Mitigation and Restoration Rider Schedule SDMRR-1 to replace both the Storm Damage Rider Schedule SD-9 and the Vegetation Management Rider Schedule VM-1. This rider allows EML to accrue \$3.5 million to a vegetation management reserve and \$5.2 million to a storm damage reserve to provide a means of managing storm restoration and vegetation management costs so that the rate impact of these costs will not be concentrated unduly in any particular year.

2023-UN-142 Entergy Mississippi, LLC, Formula Rate Plan Rider Schedule FRP-7 (Third Revised) (Formula Rate Plan)

Approval of annual Formula Rate Plan Rider Schedule FRP-7 (Third Revised) Evaluation Report Filing for calendar year 2024 and 2023 Look Back. The 2023 Look-Back reflected an interim rate adjustment of \$ 248,519 that included a DSM True-up of \$ 245,294 and a ACC True-up of \$ 3,225. The revenue requirement for the 2024 Evaluation Period was \$64.6 million, resulting in a typical residential bill of \$136.30 for a residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month.

2019-UN-219 Mississippi Power Company, Capital Plan

MPC filed its annual Capital Plan presenting the Company's generation, transmission, and distribution capital projects the Company plans to undertake for the upcoming year. The costs for the projects are included in the PEP rider filed on March 15, 2024.

2019-UN-219 Mississippi Power Company, Performance Evaluation Plan Rate Schedule PEP-6 (Formula Rate Plan)

Approval of annual Performance Evaluation Plan Rate Schedule PEP-6 (Formula Rate Plan) filing for calendar year 2024. There was no change in the 2024 PEP revenue requirement or 2023 Look Back revenue requirement because both fell within the formula band range of no change.

2024-UN-41 Mississippi Power Company, Ad Valorem Tax Adjustment Factor Schedule ATA-2

Approval of annual Ad Valorem Tax Adjustment Factor Schedule ATA-2 which recovers or refunds any difference between property taxes included in the Company's base rates and those actually paid.

Fuel Audit Summary

On February 28, 2024, and February 29, 2024, respectively, the Staff filed its summary and comments of the Staff's Certified Public Accountant's review of the annual financial audit and management review of both Entergy Mississippi, LLC and Mississippi Power Company to verify the fuel cost consumed in electric generating plants and purchased energy of electric utilities. The financial audits were performed by independent auditors selected by the Commission and confirmed that there were no material misstatements of allowable fuel and purchased energy expenditures during the audit period. On March 5, 2024, the Commission certified all the reports to the Legislature as required by statute.

Pending Litigation at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

The Mississippi Public Utilities Staff is currently a party to seven (7) separate proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), including the annual rate update of the Unit Power Sales Agreement (UPSA) for the Grand Gulf nuclear plant owned by System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI).

On June 23, 2022, SERI and the Mississippi Public Service Commission entered into a global settlement that resolved thirteen (13) then-pending dockets at FERC. The settlement provided for a \$235 million payment by SERI to Entergy Mississippi for the benefit of Mississippi ratepayers. Additionally, the settlement established an ROE of 9.65%, subject to a moratorium until June 30, 2026. Finally, the settlement placed a cap on SERI's equity used in the UPSA at 52% equity (SERI's previous capital structure was approximately 65% equity). Both the ROE and the capital structure provisions operate to reduce rates for Mississippi ratepayers. FERC accepted the settlement on November 17, 2022.

The Staff continues to participate in the following active FERC proceedings:

- **Tax Treatment of MSS-4 Tariff Components – ER21-915, EL22-6, and ER23-2821:** These consolidated proceedings address the appropriate treatment of the tax effects of net operating loss carryforwards (NOLCs) and other related accumulated deferred income tax (ADIT) components in the MSS-4 Replacement Tariff, which governs sales between the various Entergy Operating Companies. The proceedings began when Entergy Arkansas filed in ER21-915 to change the MSS-4 Tariff. Mississippi did not intervene in that proceeding. However, Mississippi intervened in the EL22-6 proceeding – a complaint filed by the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) – because that complaint sought refunds back to when Entergy Mississippi was under the Entergy System Agreement, potentially impacting costs to Entergy Mississippi. Mississippi's role in this consolidated proceeding has been limited. Parties are now awaiting a final order from FERC in this proceeding, though FERC has no set deadline by which it must issue this order.
- **SERI Pension filing – Docket No. ER22-24:** SERI filed this case in October of 2021, claiming it had accrued a prepaid pension asset dating back to the initial planning and construction of Grand Gulf that had a balance of approximately \$82 million. With this

filing, SERI proposed to include the prepaid pension asset in rate base and begin recovery of the asset. As filed, the amortization of the prepaid pension asset increases the SERI revenue requirement by approximately \$9 million per year, which in turn increases amounts recoverable from Entergy Mississippi's ratepayers by nearly \$3 million per year. The retail regulators assert that SERI is not entitled to any recovery. Settlement discussions failed and the proceeding is now in litigation. A hearing before FERC was held in May 2024, and FERC issued its Initial Decision on September 6, 2024. The Initial Decision substantially reduced SERI's accrued and prepaid pension asset. If the Initial Decision is sustained by FERC, SERI will have to refund a portion of what it has collected to Entergy Mississippi. The briefing period has ended, and the parties are awaiting action from FERC.

- **Treatment of Nuclear Decommissioning Tax Deduction Excess ADIT – Docket No. EL23-11:** FERC initiated this investigation into the UPSA in connection with its order on the Initial Decision in ER18-1182. (In the ER18-1182 proceeding, SERI filed to return its calculation of excess Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes (ADIT) in connection with the reduction of the federal income tax rate in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Mississippi released its claims in ER18-1182 as part of the settlement mentioned above.) FERC determined that the refund of excess ADIT associated with SERI's nuclear decommissioning tax deduction was beyond the scope of what SERI proposed in ER18-1182. Accordingly, FERC ordered a new proceeding to address the treatment of the nuclear decommissioning tax deduction excess ADIT. The LPSC and SERI submitted to FERC a settlement resolving the issues in this docket (Arkansas and New Orleans having previously settled). If FERC accepts the LPSC-SERI settlement, this docket will terminate.
- **Grand Gulf Lease Payments – ER23-1164:** SERI initiated this proceeding when it submitted a compliance filing required by FERC's Orders in EL18-152. (In the EL18-152 proceeding, as relevant to SERI's compliance filing in ER23-1164, the regulators argued that SERI improperly included the costs of the new lease of the minority interest in the Grand Gulf nuclear plant in charges to the Entergy Operating Companies, including Entergy Mississippi. After initially ruling that the entirety of the lease payment was an acquisition premium, FERC granted rehearing and permitted SERI to include certain lease costs in charges to the Entergy Operating Companies. FERC's orders have been appealed by the LPSC.) While Mississippi released its claims in EL18-152 with respect to lease payments made prior to the settlement date, it is Mississippi's position that SERI must properly account for the lease payments as directed in FERC's orders in EL18-152. Accordingly, Mississippi protested SERI's compliance filing. FERC has not yet acted on the compliance filing. The LPSC and SERI submitted a settlement to FERC in September 2024, and FERC already accepted settlements between SERI and Arkansas and New Orleans. If FERC accepts the LPSC-SERI settlement, the only outstanding issue in this docket relates to Mississippi's protest of SERI's attempt to include the full lease amount in rates charged to Entergy Mississippi.
- **Grand Gulf Prudence Post-Settlement – EL24-5:** The LPSC filed a new complaint in October 2023 which essentially extends the complaint in EL21-56. In EL21-56, the

LPSC, the Arkansas Public Service Commission, and the Council of the City of New Orleans filed a complaint alleging that SERI had imprudently operated Grand Gulf, causing the plant to be offline for extended periods and damaging ratepayers who were paying for both Grand Gulf and replacement power. Mississippi released its claims under EL21-56 in its settlement with SERI/Entergy. The EL24-5 complaint, however, alleges additional imprudent actions by SERI *after* the filing of the settlement. Mississippi intervened. The LPSC and SERI have submitted to FERC a settlement resolving the issues in this docket (Arkansas and New Orleans having previously settled). If FERC accepts the LPSC-SERI settlement, this docket will terminate.

- **Entergy Louisiana’s Divestment of Grand Gulf – ER25-98:** Entergy filed the tariff documents necessary for Entergy Louisiana to sell an estimated 209 MW of energy and capacity from the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station to Entergy Mississippi. Mississippi has intervened in this proceeding.
- **SERI 2023 UPSA Annual Update:** Mississippi challenged SERI’s inclusion of the lease payments in the UPSA charges to Mississippi in the 2023 Annual Update. At this time, SERI and Mississippi have agreed to defer resolution of this issue until FERC issues final orders in ER23-1164 and appeals by SERI and the LPSC of FERC’s decisions are resolved. Given the unresolved nature of Docket No. ER23-1164, this issue is still outstanding. Discussions between Mississippi and SERI are ongoing.

GAS

The three largest investor-owned natural gas local distribution companies (“LDCs”) in the state, Atmos Energy Corporation, (“Atmos Energy”), CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (“CenterPoint”) and Spire Mississippi Inc. (“Spire”) all operate under formulary plans similar to those of the state’s investor-owned electric utilities. The 2023 Gas Utilities Summary reflecting number of customers, average bills, and net operating income is provided as Attachment B to this report. Below is a digest of decisions by the Commission for the rate regulated gas utilities.

Gas Division Docket Summaries

OCTOBER 2023

2012-UN-139 CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation, Rate Regulation Adjustment Rider (RRA) (Formula Rate Plan)

Approval of Rate Regulation Adjustment Rider (RRA) for the twelve months ended December 31, 2022, filed May 1, 2023. The stipulated revenue requirement for the 2022 RRA was \$6.9 million, resulting in a typical residential bill increase of \$3.31 per month.

2013-UN-214 CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation, Supplemental Growth Rider

Approval of the annual Supplemental Growth Rider for 12 Months Ending December 31, 2022, resulting in a \$0.03 per month decrease in a typical residential bill.

2023-UA-58 CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation, Asset Management Agreement

Approval of the First Revised/Restated Asset Management Agreement with BP Energy Company to extend the agreement through April 30, 2027.

2023-UA-106 CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation, CPCN Stone County

Approval of a CPCN for the proposed Stone County Service Area No. 5 and approval of construction of certain facilities to serve the existing need for gas service in the area.

DECEMBER 2023

2005-UN-503 Atmos Energy Corporation, Stable/Rate Annual Evaluation (SRA) (Formula Rate Plan)

Approval of the Stable/Rate Annual Evaluation for the twelve months ended March 31, 2023, filed July 1, 2023. The stipulated revenue requirement for the 2023 SRA was approximately \$5.1 million, resulting in a typical residential bill increase of \$1.37 per month.

2015-UN-49 Atmos Energy Corporation, 2024 Capital Budget and System Integrity Rider (SIR)

Approval of the System Integrity Rider (SIR) rate schedules and Capital Budget for 2024, resulting in a revenue requirement increase of approximately \$10.97 million. The impact to a typical residential bill is an increase of \$4.16 per month.

2015-UN-109 Spire Mississippi Inc., Rate Stabilization Adjustment Rider (RSA) (Formula Rate Plan)

Approval of the Rate Stabilization Adjustment Rider (RSA) for the twelve months ended June 30, 2023, filed September 1, 2023. The stipulated revenue requirement for the 2023 RSA was approximately \$1.0 million.

FEBRUARY 2024

2006-UA-283 Atmos Energy Corporation, Asset Management Agreement

Approval of Asset Management Plan (AMP) extension with Trans Louisiana Gas Pipeline for a three-year period ending April 30, 2027.

JUNE 2024

2024-UA-31 Atmos Energy Corporation, Agreement for Transportation Service with True Temper Sports

Approval of an agreement for firm and/or interruptible transportation service with True Temper Sports for its manufacturing location in Amory, Mississippi.

2024-UA-32 Atmos Energy Corporation, CPCN Noxubee County

Approval of a CPCN to expand its natural gas service in Noxubee County, Mississippi, and approval of Distribution System Extension Contract with Huber Engineered Woods, LLC.

PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENTS – The Staff monitors the purchased gas adjustments (“PGA”) of Atmos Energy and CenterPoint monthly, and Spire on a bi-monthly schedule. All natural gas purchases were verified against pipeline invoices and other supporting documentation to determine that they were in conformity with underlying procurement contracts and price indices reflecting current market pricing. Atmos Energy and CenterPoint both employed Commission-approved hedging programs to help reduce the volatility of natural gas purchase prices.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Telecommunications Division continues to review and provide recommendations to the Public Service Commission regarding eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) and carriers providing regulated services throughout the state of Mississippi.

ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS (ETCs) – The Universal Service Fund (USF) is one fund with four programs - High Cost, Low Income, Rural Health Care and Schools & Libraries. Two of these programs, High Cost and Low Income, require carriers to be designated as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) to receive funding. The Commission and Staff have the primary responsibility of designating ETCs in Mississippi, along with oversight responsibilities on an annual basis.

HIGH-COST SUPPORT – Mississippi remains one of the largest national beneficiaries of monies allocated from the federal Universal Service Fund High-Cost Support program. The purpose of the USF-High-Cost Support program is to provide funds for telecom carriers to deliver service to rural/underserved areas where the market alone cannot support the substantial cost of deploying network infrastructure and providing connectivity.

In 2024, Mississippi ETCs received over \$155.8 million in total High-Cost Universal Service funding which included disbursements from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). The year 2024 marked the third full year of RDOF monthly disbursements to the twenty-three (23) RDOF ETCs certified by the Commission upon recommendation of the Staff. In 2024 these ETCs received an approximate total of \$41.8 million in RDOF disbursements and are expected to receive a like amount in 2025.

One of the main Telecommunication Division duties for 2024 was the compilation and analysis of USF mandated filings submitted by Mississippi ETCs demonstrating the use of awarded funds in accordance with program rules. The results of the compliance analyses by the Telecommunication Division, along with its recommendations were submitted to the Commission for its consideration as to the certification of each ETC to receive high-cost support for the 2025 program year.

LOW-COST/LIFELINE SUPPORT – The Low-Income program, commonly known as Lifeline, provides discounts that make local telephone service affordable to millions of low-income consumers. Lifeline provides discounts, currently \$5.25 per month for voice-only services or \$9.25 per month for bundled services, that make telephone service more affordable for millions of Americans. Consumers apply for the discounts through their telephone provider or USAC’s National Verifier tool. Currently in Mississippi, consumers may qualify for the Lifeline program

if they have a gross household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in a qualifying federal aid program (such as SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, among others).

FILING COMMENTS WITH THE FCC – The Staff monitors events of concern with the FCC and assists the Commission in filing comments. Past comments filed include comments regarding the Connect America Fund (CAF) Order, call completion concerns, cramming, and Lifeline issues.

SERVING ON FEDERAL AND STATE COMMITTEES – Members of the Staff have previously served on various committees and subcommittees in different agencies to share and gain knowledge of the telecommunications’ changing environment. Staff service has included Vice-Chair on the Telecommunications Subcommittee and member-at-large on the State and National Action Plan (SNAP) Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). In addition to NARUC participation, Staff have served on the Universal Service Federal-State Joint Board and Mississippi Cyber Initiative. These appointments and participation also are vital in the implementation of changes by the FCC and allow for the recognition of Mississippi’s involvement in national and state telecommunications issues.

WATER & SEWER

The Water and Sewer Division is responsible for the investigation of all water and sewer related filings with the Commission for initial certificates, supplemental certificates, facility certificates, sale and transfers, initial rates, and rate changes.

CURRENT NUMBER OF WATER & SEWER UTILITIES – The Mississippi Public Service Commission regulates 877 water and sewer utilities as follows:

Sewer Associations	44
Sewer Companies	67
Sewer Districts	37
Sewer Municipalities	37
Water Associations	490
Water Companies	20
Water Districts	43
Water Municipalities	139

FILINGS – During this reporting period, there were 21 filings seeking initial, supplemental, and facility certificates and sale and transfer filings. Of the 21 total filings, the specific breakdown by type of utility was as follows:

Sewer Associations	0
Sewer Companies	2
Sewer Districts	1

Sewer Municipalities	0
Water Associations	9
Water Companies	4
Water Districts	1
Water Municipalities	4

There were 12 rate filings. The filings by type of utility were as follows:

Sewer Companies	4
Sewer Municipalities	1
Water Companies	2
Water Municipalities	5

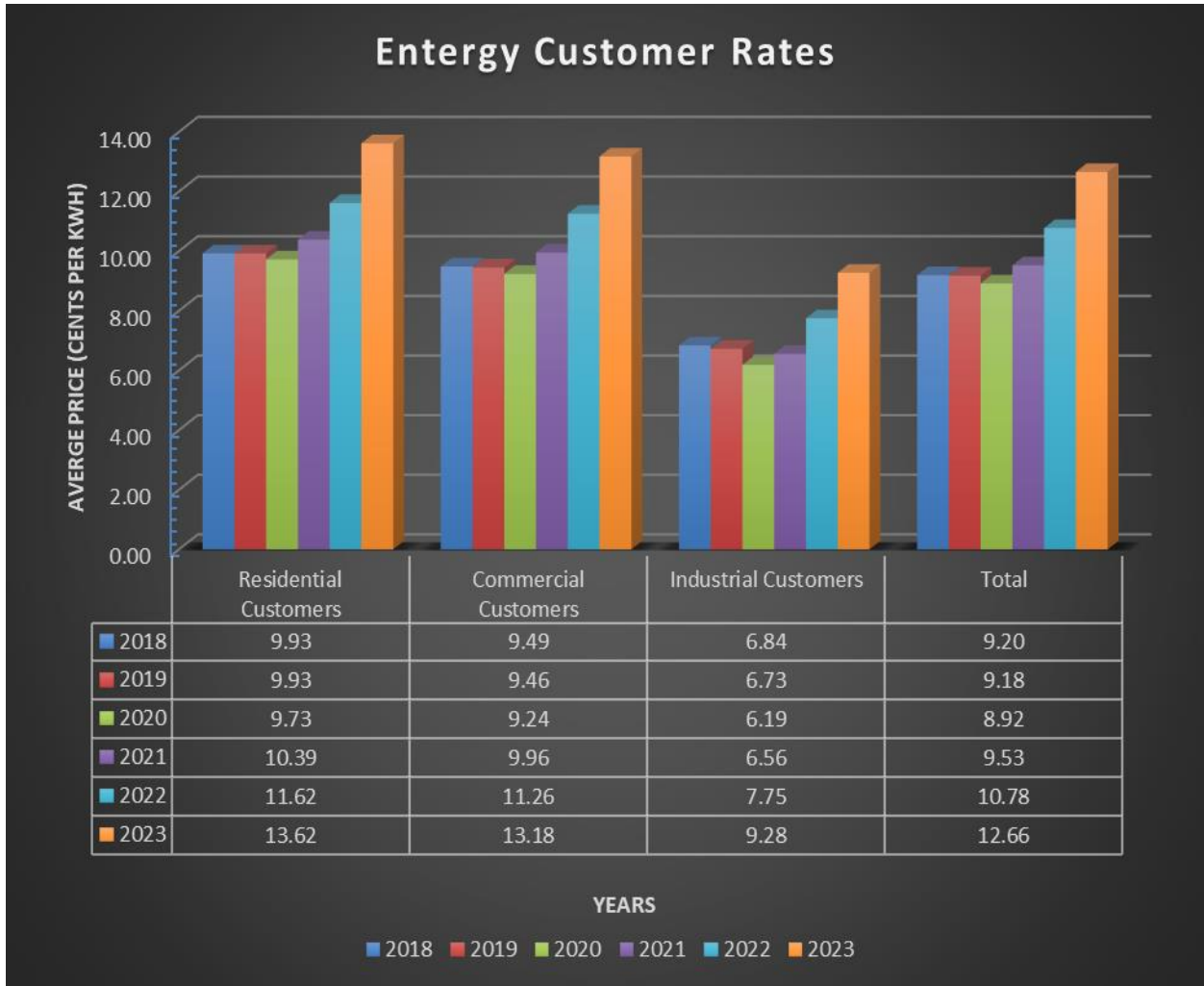
The Water and Sewer Division actively investigated all aspects of the 33 total filings made with the Commission. This investigation included: propounding data requests, reviewing engineering plans and specifications, reviewing reports and other documentation, conducting prehearing conferences, and presenting recommendations to the Commission.

VIABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS – Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 43-35-504, the Water and Sewer Division reviewed and analyzed 7 water block grant applications and made utility viability recommendations to the Mississippi Development Authority. In addition, recommendations were made to the Mississippi State Department of Health and to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

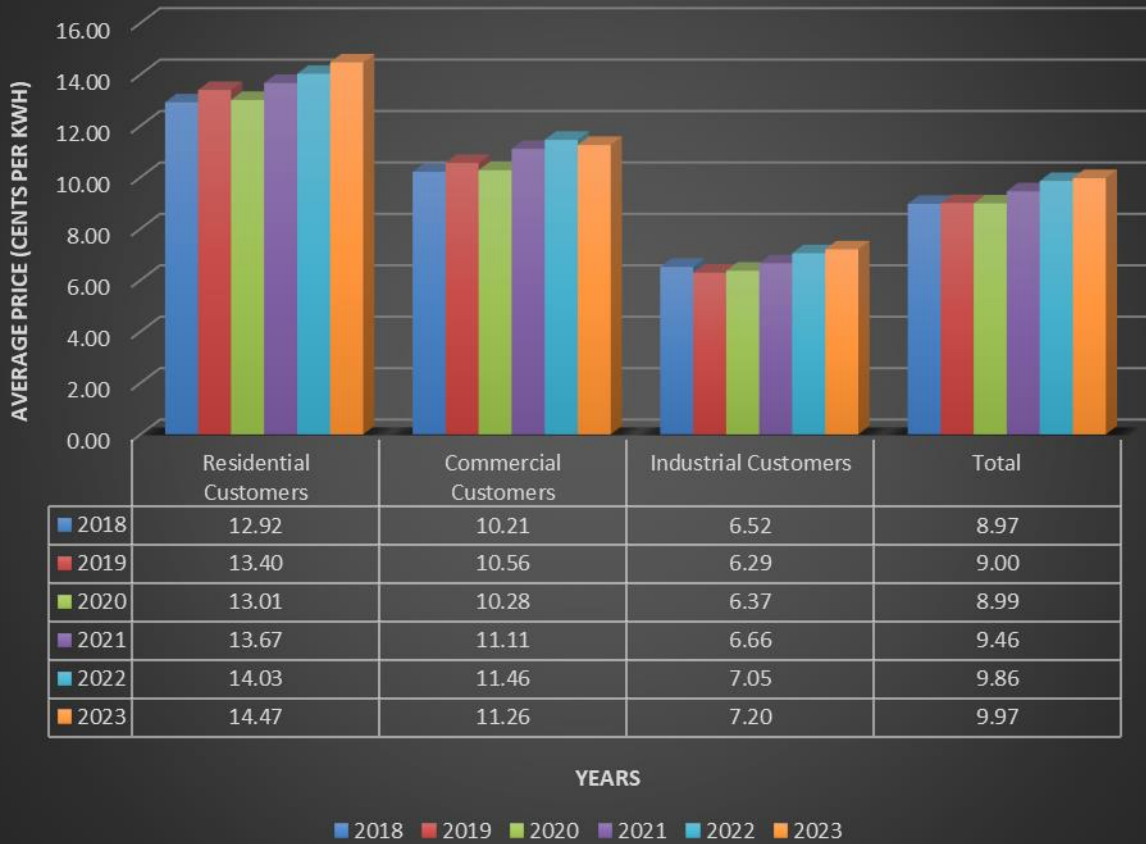
AUDITS – Annual audits of certain regulated sewer companies that are connected to regional utility authorities for wastewater treatment were performed by the Division to ensure that these sewer companies were assessing the correct monthly charges. The Division also determined the appropriate monthly charge to be assessed for the upcoming year.

INSPECTIONS – The Division continued to monitor utility systems and various construction projects throughout the reporting period.

Attachment A

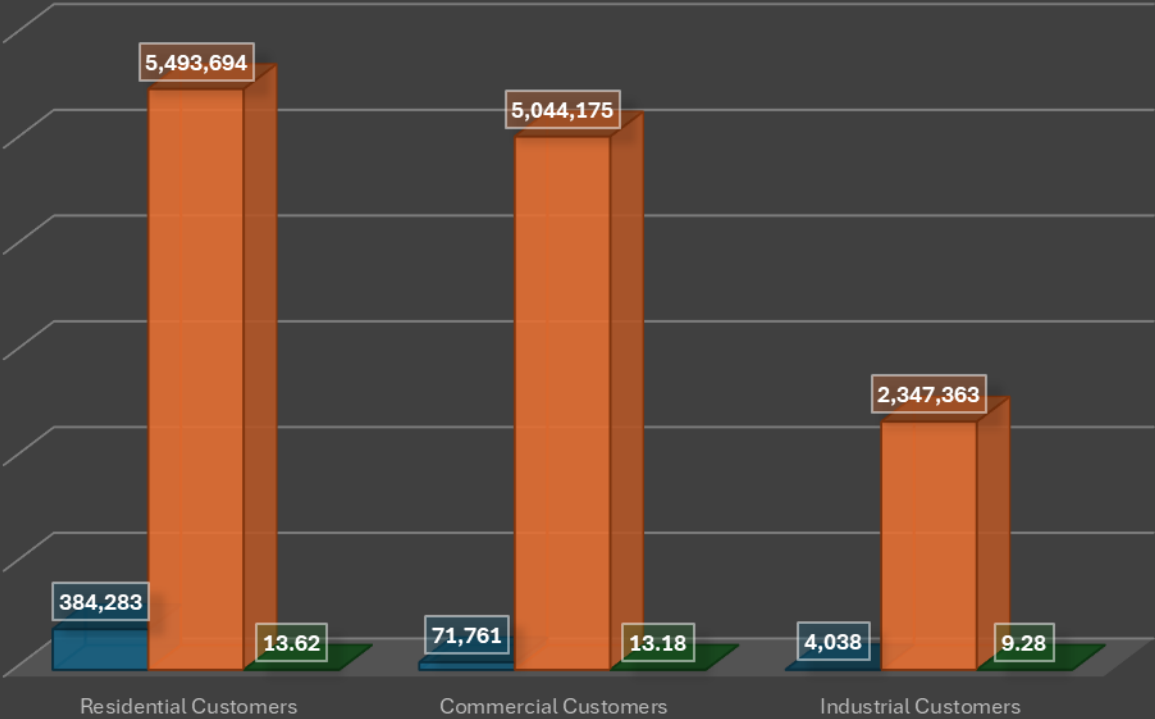


MPC Customer Rates



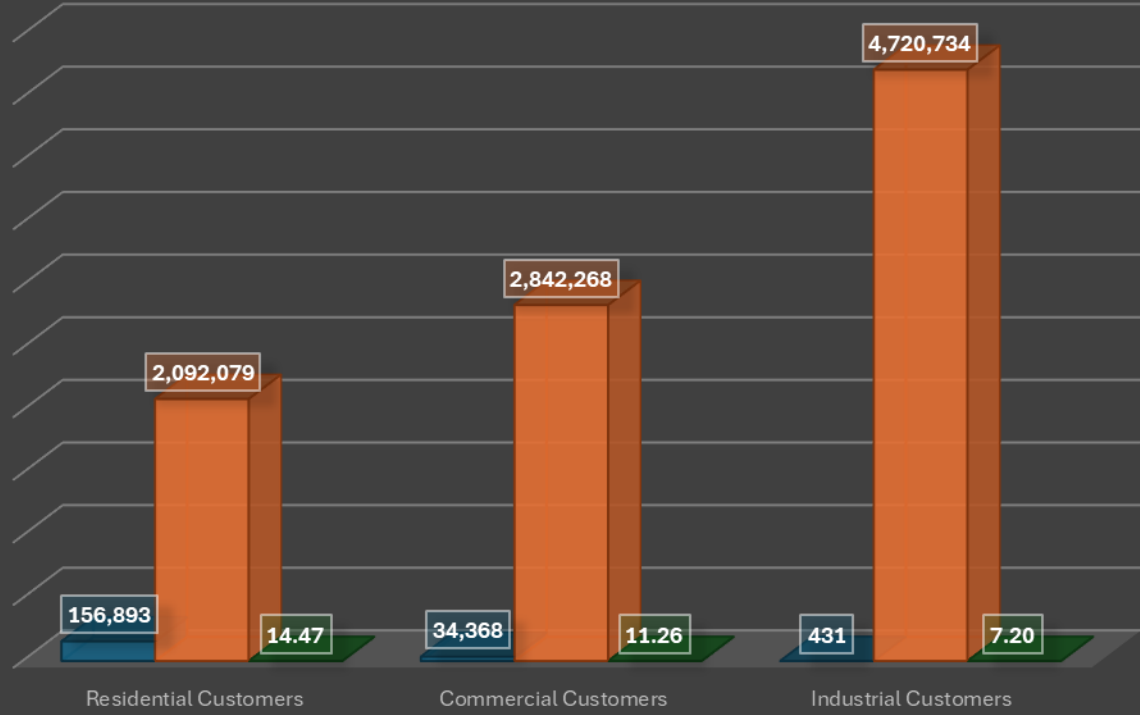
ENTERGY

■ Number of Customers ■ MWH Usage ■ Price (cents per kwh)



MPC

■ Number of Customers ■ MWH Usage ■ Price (cents per kwh)



Attachment B
GAS UTILITIES SUMMARY 2023
(SOURCE: COMPANY ANNUAL REPORTS)

As of December 31, 2023
 Number of companies reporting: 6*

	Atmos	CenterPoint	MS Natural Inc	MS River Gas	Burrsville/ Counce Gas Co.	Spire	TOTALS
Plant (Intrastate Only)							
Plant in Service	1,215,729,725	470,719,673	269,843	1,712,659	293,500	87,181,977	1,775,907,377
Construction Work in Progress	43,818,938	17,055,806	0	0	0	2,309,465	63,184,209
Plant Acquisition Adjustment	9,085,319	0	0	0	0	0	9,085,319
Plant Held for Future Use	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Materials and Supplies	616,758	5,197,330	0	58,886	0	862,299	6,735,272
Less:							
Depreciation and Amortization Reserves	171,467,223	106,530,941	102,859	1,108,433	293,500	30,683,051	310,186,007
Contributions in Aid of Construction	0	0	0	182,382	0	0	182,382
NET BOOK COSTS	1,097,783,517	386,441,868	166,984	480,729	0	59,670,690	1,544,543,788
Revenues and Expenses (Intrastate Only)							
Operating Revenues	306,116,081	119,541,673	496,063	1,236,969	1,453,676	29,472,899	458,317,361
Depreciation and Amortization Expenses	29,816,584	15,644,125	13,492	107,757	78,926	1,551,197	47,212,081
Income Taxes	11,870,146	14,183,809	0	0	29,395	265,309	26,348,659
Other Taxes	29,052,448	9,060,506	3,210	66,471	3,066	1,471,576	39,657,277
Other Operating Expenses	151,687,197	76,659,947	525,074	1,338,498	121,909	23,968,785	254,301,409
Total Operating Expenses	222,426,375	115,548,387	541,776	1,512,725	233,296	27,256,867	367,519,427
Net Operating Income	83,689,706	3,993,286	(45,713)	(275,756)	1,220,380	2,216,032	90,797,935
Other Income	1,383,222	467,762	0	181,092	0	532,873	2,564,949
Other Deductions	(18,759,265)	(7,658,057)	0	(9,074)	0	(1,696,196)	(28,122,593)
NET INCOME	66,313,663	(3,197,009)	(45,713)	(103,739)	1,220,380	1,052,708	65,240,291
Customers (Intrastate Only)							
Year-End Average:							
Residential	227,057	121,454	281	1,527	150	15,120	365,589
Commercial	19,424	12,858	39	94	62	2,837	35,314
Industrial	234	14	0	0	3	32	283
Others	2,427	0	0	58	0	0	2,485
Total Number of Customers	249,142	134,326	320	1,679	215	17,989	403,671
Other Statistics (Intrastate Only)							
Average Annual Residential Use (MCF)	46.80	38.40	45.19	33.66	29.15	35.95	32.73
Average Residential Cost per MCF (\$)	17.00	15.55	17.47	15.54	10.23	16.45	13.18
Average Residential Monthly Bill	66.28	49.74	65.79	43.59	24.86	49.27	42.79
Gross Plant Investment per Customer	5,094.49	3,669.97	843.26	1,055.12	1,365.12	5,022.72	2,435.81

* At the time of publishing, the 2024 Annual Report for Southeast Utilities has not been received by the Staff.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF
 COMBINED STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
 JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

DISBURSEMENTS:

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,955,670	
Travel	\$ 18,427	
Contractual Services	\$ 43,559	
Commodities	\$ 5,908	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$ 2,023,564
Transfers	\$ 0	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$ 2,023,564
Receipts	\$ 0	
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION		\$ 2,551,071
Grants	\$ 0	
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 0	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 2,551,071