



MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**SAM BRITTON**

SOUTHERN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



### From the Commissioner's Desk:

It has been a pleasure serving as your Public Service Commissioner in 2016. This year, my staff and I have visited with many of you across the Southern District to learn your concerns and we have begun to tackle some of the difficult issues in public utilities. It is my goal to serve the best interests of the public in every decision that is made.

I hope you will enjoy reading about the things we've accomplished this year. I look forward to 2017 and continuing my service to you.

Wishing you a Happy New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Britton".

## News from the Southern District

### Commission advises changes to Arnold Line Water Association-Lamar County

On November 2, the Public Service Commission opened a docket to consider rule changes to Arnold Line Water Association regarding quality of service issues. The Commission then issued a letter to Arnold Line advising changes that needed to be made in order for Arnold Line's rules comply with the Commission's rule and state code. The hearing regarding this issue was set for January 19 in Jackson in which Arnold Line would have the opportunity to defend their legal case.

More on that story here:

<http://www.wdam.com/story/33747642/arnold-line-water-association-refuses-to-change-policies-public-service-commission-holding-formal-hearing>

<http://www.clarionledger.com/story/business/2016/11/18/arnold-line-water-association-defies-state-regulators/94089048/>

<http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/story/news/local/2016/11/23/arnold-line-president-commission-bullying-us/94222516/>

## Commissioner Britton Selected to NARUC Committees

This year, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) announced the appointments of Commissioner Britton to serve on the NARUC Investment Committee, Committee on Electricity as well as the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues-Waste Disposal.

NARUC was founded in 1889 dedicated to represent the State public service commissions who regulate utilities that provide essential public services such as energy, water, power and telecommunications. Located in Washington D.C., NARUC serves State public utility interests before the three branches of the Federal government and various independent Federal agencies.

NARUC's eight committees are comprised of State public service commissioners across the country who propose resolutions that, if approved by the Board of Directors, set Association policy on Congressional, Federal, and Industry matters. The committees also hold educational sessions and panel discussions in order to share information to aid in the design and execution of creative solutions regarding relevant issues.

## Commission opens Kemper Plant Discovery Docket

Commissioner Britton led efforts to create a Discovery Docket and publish Independent Monitoring Reports online for ratepayer access. On August 17, the Commission approved the 180 day long discovery docket that established the procedural process in which interested parties may submit data requests and receive response related to pertinent aspects of the Kemper County Power Plant.

Read more here: <http://www.wlox.com/story/31560051/psc-to-make-kemper-oversight-documents-available-online>



We made several appearances discussing this issue and other issues surrounding the Kemper Plant.

<http://www.sunherald.com/news/business/article102816377.html>

[http://www.supertalk.fm/archives/audio-archives/gallo-archives/?recording\\_id=19463](http://www.supertalk.fm/archives/audio-archives/gallo-archives/?recording_id=19463)

## Commissioner Britton proposes ROBOCALL Resolution

In September of this year, we proposed a resolution which was passed by the Commission and began efforts to specifically block “robocalls.”

“Robocalls”, prerecorded or autodialed telemarketing calls, are the leading source of consumer complaints at the Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communication Commission with over 3.5 million in 2015 and a

projected 5 million this year. The Mississippi Public Service Commission has received over 75,000 complaints under the Mississippi No Call List with over half of those being “robocalls”.

While current federal and state laws effectively regulate unwanted telephone calls from law-abiding telemarketing companies, technology like autodial services and “robocalls” have created avenues that the current system does not address effectively. The Commission is calling on members of Congress to take action on this issue to make tangible progress in dealing with this problem by supporting The Repeated Objectionable Bothering of Consumers on Phones Act or ROBOCOP Act.

The ROBOCOP Act, which was introduced in the United States House of Representatives this year will require all wireless and landline telephone companies to offer free “robocal” blocking services to all customers.

### **Cell Phones Added to the Mississippi No Call List**

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, all three Commissioners met in Biloxi to discuss the addition of cell phones to the Mississippi No Call Program. To register and to learn more about the Mississippi No Call Program visit here:

<https://www.psc.state.ms.us/nocall/nocall.html>

### **Hub City set to be the Solar Hub of the South**



Mississippi Public Service Commissioners joined officials from Area Development Partnership, Lamar County, Mississippi Power and Origis Energy Solar Project in Hattiesburg this past May.

Set to be the largest solar facility in Mississippi, Mississippi Power says the Lamar County project will include over 200,000 solar panels providing enough electricity to service around 8,000 homes in the area.

It is important for companies to support power needs with low cost and diverse energy portfolios.

From Left to Right: Central District Public Service Commissioner Cecil Brown, Dale Lucas of the Lamar County Board of Supervisors, Southern District Public Service Commissioner Sam Britton, Johan Vanhee of Origis Energy, Johnny Atherton; VP of Corporate Services & Community Relations Mississippi Power, Chad Newell; President of Area Development Partnership.

## More from the Southern District

*I've enjoyed the opportunity to visit with our community leaders and the public across the state. Here are just a few of the places we traveled.*

### *Simpson County*

*Mayor Todd Booth of Mendenhall and the Simpson County Board of Supervisors gave us a warm welcome.*



### *Pike County*

*We visited the Rotary Club of McComb and the Pike County Board of Supervisors*



### *Natchez*

*I appreciate Senator Bob Dearing allowing me the opportunity to speak with his Government Class at Co-Lin. We met some incredibly engaged students with great questions about state government.*



## *Picayune*

*Southern Char Steakhouse catered an excellent lunch for our visit to the Rotary Club of Picayune.*

More on our time in Picayune here:

<http://www.picayuneitem.com/2016/11/public-service-commissioner-speaks-at-rotary-meeting/>

## *Starkville*

*The Rotary Club of Starkville invited me to be a guest speaker and made me feel right at home.*



## *Lincoln County*

*I was happy to meet with the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors earlier this year. Thank you for allowing me to serve you!*