

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Commissioner Brandon Presley MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NORTHERN DISTRICT

Presley to Kick Off Hire Mississippi Tour Across Northern District

In 2016, 70% of the \$810,000,000 spent by the state's five largest electric and gas companies on operations and maintenance went to companies outside of Mississippi.

Jackson, Mississippi (January 3, 2018) – Mississippi Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley will kick off a series of local events across the Northern District to allow businesses to sign up to do work with the state's largest utilities. These local events are part of Commissioner Presley's "Hire Mississippi Tour" and are as follows:

Date	Location
January 7	Magnolia Civic Center - 135 E Bankhead St New Albany, MS 38652
January 14	National Guard Old Armory – 101 9th St South, Amory MS
January 28	East Mississippi Community College CMTE Building - 8731 S. Frontage Road. Mayhew, MS 39753
February 4	Panola County Courthouse - 215 South Pocahontas Street Sardis, MS 38666
February 25	Pontotoc Community House - 144 N Main St, Pontotoc, MS 38863

In 2017, Presley passed the Hire Mississippi rule that requires the state's largest public utilities to give extra notice, attention, and support for Mississippi businesses looking to bid on public utility projects. Hire Mississippi requires the largest utilities to give notice to each company on their Hire Mississippi Supplier List when any job is available for bid that a Mississippi company is qualified to perform. The program requires each business to sign up and provide certain information.

"I am sick and tired of seeing out-of-state companies on construction sites in Mississippi when I know that Mississippians are footing the bill for those projects. I have zero doubt that our companies could be doing at least some of that work, if they were given the chance. It's past time that we put our state's businesses first and that is what the Hire Mississippi program does," said Commissioner Brandon Presley. "Hire Mississippi allows Mississippi businesses to get a bite at the apple and be considered first for contracts that they are qualified to do. If we don't look out for Mississippi businesses and workers, no one else will."

Presley says that Atmos Energy, CenterPoint Energy, Entergy, Mississippi Power and Spire Gas will have representatives and sign-up tables at the event to talk face to face with local contractors and businesses and sign them up for each company's Hire Mississippi Supplier List on the spot.

"These are casual events, but ones where I want every business owner to leave there signed up for the Hire Mississippi Supplier List and with knowledge about the program."

These events will begin at 8 a.m. They are free of charge, open to the public, and breakfast will be served.



for more information contact:

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