

Mississippi Public Service Commission



LEONARD L. BENTZ, COMMISSIONER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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July 1, 2008

BENTZ ANNOUNCES HEARING AND REVIEW OF ENTERGY MISSISSIPPI INC.'S FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGES

Commissioner Leonard Bentz announced that the Mississippi Public Service Commission will hold a hearing on Monday, July 7, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., in the Public Service Commission Courtroom on the First Floor of the Woolfolk State Office Building, for Entergy Mississippi, Inc. to submit evidence, oral and written, to support its latest 28% fuel adjustment charges.

“The Commission will inquire, investigate and hear sworn testimony from Entergy, the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff, and expert witnesses to determine the reasonableness and prudence of the approximately 28% increase in fuel charges being passed on to Mississippi customers of Entergy,” Bentz said.

The Order signed today requires that no increase to a fuel adjustment rider or clause by any public utility regulated by the Commission can be implemented without formal notification by filing with the Executive Secretary of the Commission. Also, formal notification must now be received 20 days prior to the implementation of the charges, in order to give the Commission the opportunity to investigate, take testimony or hold hearings.

“We as a Commission understand the hardship that ratepayers have endured due to the recent fuel cost adjustments. This Commission is committed to ensuring that the rate-payers are given the best possible option when it comes to the energy companies purchasing fuel and then passing that cost on to customers. The hearing ordered today will investigate these practices and procedures that utilities companies use,” Bentz added.

Consumers may also contact Commissioner Leonard Bentz’s office at 1-800-356-6429 for any questions regarding a Utility question or the No-Call List.

The Public Service Commission regulates telecommunications, electric, gas, water and sewer utilities. The Public Service Commission also regulates the No-Call List. The agency is charged with assuring that rates and charges for services are just and reasonable, that the service rendered is reasonably adequate, and that any facilities constructed or acquired are required for the convenience and necessity of the public. Additionally, the agency exercises safety jurisdiction over gas pipelines and has area jurisdiction over all public utilities. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Commission answers complaints, conducts investigations and holds both formal and informal hearings.

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