

Mississippi Public Service Commission



LEONARD L. BENTZ, COMMISSIONER
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MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
1-800-356-6429

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BENTZ ANNOUNCES REDUCTION IN UTILITY BILLS FOR MISSISSIPPI POWER CUSTOMERS

Jackson, Mississippi – Mississippi Public Service Commission Chairman Leonard Bentz approved and ordered a decrease for Mississippi Power Company customers.

Mississippi Power Company customers will see an average of \$2.20 reduction in their residential electric bills due to a decrease in fuel costs. Average usage is considered 1,000-kilowatt hours.

This reduction is a part of an annual filing by Mississippi Power. Each year the Mississippi Public Service Commission evaluates Mississippi Power Company's fuel purchases to ensure that the ratepayers are getting the cheapest, yet most reliable fuel available. Mississippi Power is not allowed to earn a profit on fuel cost.

Mississippi Power Customers will see the decrease in their utility bills as soon as February 2012.

Recently, Commissioner Bentz requested that the major utility companies offer Rate Reduction plans to both new and existing businesses. Mississippi Power, Entergy Mississippi, Atmos Energy Corporation, CenterPoint Energy Resources and Wilmut Gas & Oil Company offered plans that include reduced rates, waived security deposits and plans that encourage the use of existing or vacant buildings.

Commissioner Bentz's office may be contacted by calling 1-800-356-6429; via email to southern.district@psc.state.ms.us, or by mail to the following address:

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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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