



## Entergy Mississippi Proposes Plan to Power Mississippi's Future

New legislation paves way to meet growing customer needs

Entergy Mississippi, Inc. is looking ahead to the future, planning ways to meet the energy needs of a growing Mississippi by supporting state legislation that enables electric utilities to address a predicted power shortfall.

"Demand for electricity is growing every year, and we are already experiencing a need for a more diverse power supply," said Carolyn Shanks, president and Chief Executive Officer of Entergy Mississippi, Inc.

According to Shanks, Mississippi House Bill 1274 or Senate Bill 2793 will help customers save money, address a pressing need for clean power, and create a process for moving the state forward.

Specifically, the proposed legislation paves the way for opportunities such as a possible new nuclear unit at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Claiborne County by allowing the company to capitalize on federal incentives which encourage the construction of new baseload generating facilities and could save customers substantial amounts in construction-related costs.

Of significance is a provision that would allow customers to "pay-as-they-go" during the planning, licensing, design, development and other early stages

of construction of a baseload generating facility, allowing large savings in financing costs for the project. Current legislation requires customers to assume all construction costs when the new facility opens, resulting in significant increases to monthly bills.

"Like other major expenses, the more planning that can be done the better likelihood there is to reduce the overall costs," Shanks said.

To that end, Entergy Mississippi and Mississippi Power Company, the state's two largest electric utilities, have been working with the Mississippi Public Service Commission and its staff to make key decisions about Mississippi's economic future. Growth opportunities are closely tied to the state's ability to provide power to new residents and industry.

Entergy Mississippi has not built a new baseload generating facility — a power plant designed to help the company meet basic electrical needs — in more than 20 years. The Attala generating plant, an efficient, natural-gas-powered facility, was purchased by the company in 2006, but the need for additional generating capacity and a more diversified fuel mix is growing.

The quest for more baseload generation is not unique to Mississippi. The U.S. Department of Energy states 250 to 500 new baseload power plants will be needed across the country by 2030. Legislation and regulations supporting new nuclear plant construction have passed or are being considered in several states, including Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The legislation proposed for Mississippi does not grant approval for a utility to build a new plant, and

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## Entergy Mississippi Offers Green for Going Green

Utility makes grants available for environmental projects

Entergy Mississippi, Inc. is accepting applications for the company's annual Environmental Stewardship Grant program.

The grant program is part of Entergy Mississippi's *Generation E* initiative, a forward-thinking environmental focus aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, exploring new nuclear opportunities, launching educational programs, and encouraging others to make similar commitments.

Entergy Corporation aspires to be a leader with respect to environmental stewardship and maintains a firm stance that the company should be proactive in its efforts to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment.

While grants typically range between \$5,000 and \$25,000, more may be awarded for worthy projects. The application deadline is March 10.

"The Environmental Stewardship Grant program, now in its ninth year, fosters projects which help support the steps Entergy is taking to protect the environment," said Gloria Johnson, customer service director for Entergy Mississippi. "By working closely with community organizations that share similar goals, we can better protect the world we all live in."

Organizations may submit applications online by visiting: [www.entergy.com/our\\_community/environmental\\_grants.aspx](http://www.entergy.com/our_community/environmental_grants.aspx). Grant winners will be announced by Earth Day, April 22.

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## Entergy Mississippi Seeks to Increase Federal Energy Assistance Program Funding

National drive aimed at persuading Congress to approve additional LIHEAP monies

Representatives from Entergy Mississippi, Inc. and advocates for low-income residents are heading to Washington, D.C. as part of a national campaign to convince Congress that more dollars are needed to help offset this year's higher energy costs for elderly, disabled and low-income families with children.

On Jan. 30, more than 150 representatives of nonprofits, community action groups and utilities from across the country will be on Capitol Hill as part of the National Fuel Fund Network's Washington Action Day for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Entergy Mississippi employees are participating in the annual event as part of the company's commitment to help low-income customers. LIHEAP is the primary tool to help families of the working poor and low-income elderly and disabled residents pay energy costs.

"Rising energy prices affect everyone, but low-income customers are particularly vulnerable," said Ann Becker, manager of external affairs for Entergy Mississippi. "That's why we are making this effort to

encourage Congress to appropriate more funding for LIHEAP.

"We're thankful for the \$2.6 billion Congress has already allocated to the program, but it's simply not enough to do the job," said Becker.

Fewer households received LIHEAP assistance in 2006 than when the program started in 1981.

"As it's funded now, LIHEAP only reaches 15.6 percent of eligible households across the nation," she said. "That is in line with the less than 16 percent of Mississippi's 473,000 eligible households that received assistance in 2007. Demand for help is only going to continue to rise with national energy prices."

In addition, media attention often focuses on the energy needs of the Northeast, Midwest and other areas hit by winter weather, but studies show heat waves cause more deaths annually than all other weather-related phenomena.

Under an \$800 million amendment proposal, Mississippi would see its share of the grant go from the current \$14.5 million to \$27 million.

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Also being considered is an amendment to an economic stimulus package that would increase funding even more. Mississippi's share would rise to \$75 million based on estimates of the impact of the current proposal.

Looking ahead to fiscal 2009, Congress has the opportunity to appropriate \$3.4 billion for LIHEAP.

"We hope that Congress will not only address the urgent needs this year, but also look ahead to the future needs of our customers and appropriate increased funding for LIHEAP next year," Becker said.

### "...Plan to Power Mississippi's Future" CONTINUED

it does not set or increase rates to utility customers for such plants. Rather, it provides authorization to the MPSC to make these decisions. Any decision by Entergy Mississippi to construct or acquire new facilities is dependent on the approval of the MPSC.

In Mississippi, legislative supporters note that passage of the bill could ultimately mean more jobs and economic development for the state.

"Now is the time to act," said Shanks. "The sooner new power can be brought on line, the sooner businesses and consumers will benefit," she said.

### "...Green for Going Green" CONTINUED

Entergy Corporation aspires to be a leader with respect to environmental stewardship and maintains a firm stance that the company should be proactive in its efforts to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment. In 2006, the company renewed its commitment to environmental excellence through the

development and adoption of a comprehensive environmental strategy that includes a second five-year commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in coordination with Environmental Defense, a national advocacy group.

## Entergy **Currents**

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