

# Entergy Currents

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News for our Mississippi Customers

## Entergy Mississippi Again Cleared by Independent Audit

**Audit is third in two years that shows no improper charges to customers**

Once again, an independent auditing expert, hired by the Mississippi Public Service Commission, has found no improper charges by Entergy Mississippi, Inc. to customers. This is the third MPSC-commissioned, independent audit in two years to reach this conclusion.

"We are pleased both with the overall assessment by McFadden Consulting Group and that the Commission adopted and certified the

Horne's audit report confirms that Entergy Mississippi has properly accounted for fuel and purchased energy costs.

audit report to the Mississippi Legislature," said Bob Grenfell, vice president of regulatory affairs for Entergy Mississippi, Inc.

McFadden Consulting Group Inc. filed the audit report with the MPSC on Tuesday, March 30, which certified it shortly after.

The audit report, which examined Entergy Mississippi's operations, found that the processes and procedures utilized by Entergy in purchasing

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## Entergy Mississippi Bucks Trucks for Green Machines

**New vehicles are cleaner, quieter, more fuel-efficient**

At first glance, it looks like any other Entergy Mississippi, Inc. line truck — big and white, with an Entergy logo and a bucket stretched across the back.

But a long green stripe stretched across the sides clearly labels the truck as a hybrid — a vehicle with a diesel engine and a battery-powered electric motor. Three such trucks are now in service in Mississippi — two in the metro Jackson area and one in Southaven.

"These hybrid trucks use less fuel and are cleaner and quieter than our standard bucket trucks," said Rick Riley, director of transmission and distribution operations for Entergy Mississippi, Inc. "They save our company and our customers money, and they're environmentally-friendly."

Entergy transportation planners believe electric vehicles are the way of the future.

"That's important to Entergy and to our customers, too."

The hybrid trucks are part of Entergy Mississippi's *Generation E* initiative, launched in 2007, that is designed to promote the company's forward-thinking environmental efforts, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and exploring alternative fuel sources. Entergy is leasing 10 of the vehicles for use in Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. While the lease is higher for a hybrid truck, fuel costs are lower.

In 2008, Entergy vehicles used more than 5.8 million gallons of fuel at a

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## Entergy Mississippi is Ready for Spring Storm Season — Are You?

**Violent weather systems can spawn floods, thunderstorms and tornadoes**

Now is peak season for tornadoes in the South, and the violent weather can also spawn thunderstorms, lightning, floods and, sometimes, power outages.

When serious weather threatens, Entergy Mississippi, Inc. mobilizes for around-the-clock outage restoration. The utility encourages customers to prepare, as well.

### We're ready, are you?

Building on its successful *Ennovations* initiative launched in 2007, the utility uses pre-emptive service strategies to stop outages before they occur. This year, Entergy Mississippi will spend some \$90 million on reliability efforts, including

\$10 million on vegetation management — tree trimming and removal.

"Vegetation management is a critical aspect of storm preparation," said Rick Riley, director of transmission and distribution operations for Entergy Mississippi, Inc.

"We trim trees near power lines to remove large, overhanging limbs that could fall and create outages and safety hazards.

"We also remove dead and decaying trees to keep them from falling on power lines."

Do your part by surveying your yard prior to a major storm. Look for dead or weakened branches and prune them to help trees better withstand high winds. Check for dead trees that need to be removed. Before trimming a tree, check carefully for nearby power lines. If a tree is touching a line or close to one, don't trim it. It is safe only for licensed, qualified tree trimmers to work near power lines. Call 1-800-ENTERGY.

If you have an outage to report, Entergy now offers the option of calling it in at 1-800-9OUTAGE (1-800-968-8243) or texting

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Entergy trucks roll into Yazoo City to begin restoring power after the April 24 tornado.



**"...Independent Audit"** CONTINUED

power help ensure that energy is procured for customers at the lowest practical costs.

McFadden's finding is consistent with another Commission-ordered audit report of Entergy Mississippi's fuel procurement policies and fuel adjustment clause. In that operations report, Vantage Consulting found that Entergy purchases energy, fuel, transmission rights and access, and other related products at the lowest reasonable cost.

The third Commission-ordered audit, by Horne LLP, an accounting and auditing firm, was a financial audit of the company's energy cost recovery mechanism. Horne's audit report confirms that Entergy Mississippi has properly accounted for fuel and purchased energy costs.

Entergy purchases energy, fuel, transmission rights and access, and other related products at the lowest reasonable cost.

McFadden's report points out that Entergy is one of the largest and most complex utilities in the United States, and that the review and analysis was thorough.

"We're pleased that all three of these independent, expert auditing firms have confirmed what we already know — that our 1,400 Mississippi employees work hard to bring reliable, affordable and safe electricity to our customers," said Haley Fisackerly, chief executive officer for Entergy Mississippi, Inc. "We take pride in the way we operate our business and take our obligation to serve very seriously, and we have for more than 85 years."

**"...Green Machines"** CONTINUED

cost of more than \$21 million. The hybrid trucks consume between 20 and 30 percent less fuel, and average 6.09 miles per gallon versus the standard vehicle's average of 4.96 miles. If each hybrid truck logs 20,000 miles a year, this will save about 748 gallons per year per truck. The net savings will depend on the future price of diesel fuel.

Hybrids also emit less CO<sub>2</sub>, the most

common greenhouse gas. They are also quieter, meaning less noise pollution.

"At the work site, the hybrid's battery operates the hydraulic boom rather than the truck's diesel engine," Riley said. "So they are much quieter, allowing for easier communications between linemen on the ground and linemen working from the bucket on dangerous energized power lines."

"The trucks can also be powered by their batteries until they reach about 20 miles per hour," he continued. "The batteries are recharged as the trucks are driven."

Entergy transportation planners believe electric vehicles are the way of the future. In addition to the hybrid bucket trucks, Entergy has seven hybrid cars on order and purchased two compressed natural gas cars last year for the company's gas operations in Louisiana.



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a program of Entergy Mississippi, Inc.

**"...Storm Season..."** CONTINUED

the information. You can also receive outage and restoration information by text or by going to the View Outages website at [entergy.com](http://entergy.com).

Finally, prepare for stormy weather by stocking emergency kits so you won't be caught off guard in the event of power outages. A storm preparation kit should include:

- at least one flashlight for every member of the household,
- a battery-powered lantern to illuminate larger spaces,
- a battery-operated weather radio for storm updates,
- battery-operated cell phone chargers and
- extra batteries in a variety of cell sizes for extended power outages, along with batteries for critical-care devices.

Keep storm kits in a location that is easily accessible to everyone in the house. Check and replenish items before the start of each storm season.

"We do our best to reduce the likelihood of outages during bad weather, but storms are often very powerful and unpredictable," said Riley. "The best precaution our customers can take is to be prepared and have everything they need in one central location if they lose power, including a way to notify us of the outage.

"This will help instill order and safety while our crews are busy restoring their service."

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