

NEWS

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Public Service Commissioners Call for Action to Assist Consumers during Excessive Heat

MONTGOMERY – In a joint statement from the Alabama Public Service Commission, Commissioners Lucy Baxley, Jan Cook and Susan Parker called upon Alabama Power Company to re-double its efforts to assist customers with their electricity bills during these times of excessive heat. In making their case, the Commissioners noted that the Montgomery area has recorded at least 56 consecutive days where the high temperature was 90 degrees or higher. This breaks the record of 52 days set in 1986.

Earlier this year the Commission asked Alabama Power and other regulated energy providers to work with customers who may be having trouble paying their heating bills as a result of the abnormally cold weather. All regulated utilities responded favorably to this earlier request. Now, the string of hot days and nights has created additional challenges for customers as their electricity demand has risen due to the extreme heat. As a result of the increased usage, it is expected that customer's bills will be higher this summer even though electric rates have been lowered four times since June 2009.

While the Commission has been successful in driving down electric rates over the last 15 months, an extremely cold winter and record hot summer have nevertheless resulted in higher energy bills for customers. In response, the Commission has requested this measure to offer some relief to these customers and continues to be strongly committed to preserving low rates and ensuring overall affordability for all consumers.

Summer 2010 Extreme Weather - Consecutive Days where the High Temperature was 90 degrees or higher (* - indicates new record).

Location	No. of Days	Historical Rank	Previous Record
Birmingham	50	1st*	37 - 1932 & 2007
Montgomery	56	1st*	52 - 1986
Tuscaloosa	46	2nd	69 - 1954
Anniston	27	6th	38 - 1960
Pinson	55	1st*	38 - 2007

Source: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx/?n=pns_heatstats2010