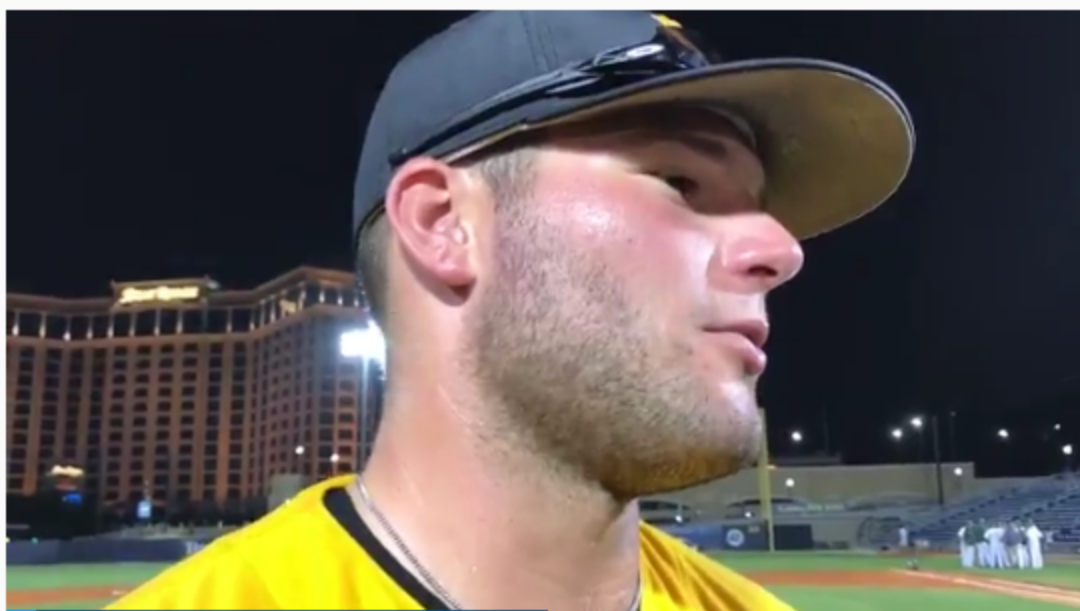


# Construction begins at solar farm near Sumrall

Haskel Burns, American Staff Writer 1:38 p.m. CT May 27, 2017



Southern Miss catcher Bryant Bowen spoke to reporters after Saturday's second win over Charlotte. Jason Munz/Hattiesburg American



(Photo: Special to the American)

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## The story

In September 2015, officials from Hattiesburg-based Cooperative Energy announced the company would partner with international solar energy provider Origis Energy to construct a 52-megawatt project on a 470-acre solar farm off Mississippi 42 near Sumrall.

## What happened?

Construction began this month on the facility and is expected to finish by December.

[South Mississippi Electric becomes Cooperative Energy](#)

According to a press release, Origis Energy has developed and will install and operate the electric generation site, while Cooperative Energy will purchase all power produced at the location.

"Our members have told us they want more renewable energy in our portfolio," Jim Compton, Cooperative Energy's president and CEO, said in the release. "The project provides a significant amount of solar energy to power the homes and businesses we serve.

"So we are responding to our members and also providing clean, affordable energy."

## What's next?

The site will encompass 206,892 photovoltaicsolar panels when completed, and is expected to create approximately 400jobs during construction. The facility is designed to provide clean energy to the generation and transmission cooperative's 423,000 members across Mississippi.

[2 Lamar County solar plants will bring temporary jobs](#)

"We are honored to be working with Cooperative Energy as they power more homes and businesses with solar every year," Johan Vanhee, managing director of business development for Origis Energy, said in the release. "These utility and community leaders understand that solar provides clean, affordable power while creating jobs, economic and environmental benefits."

The solar farm will be the second built in the area in conjunction with Origis Energy, as it recently partnered with Mississippi Power to construct a 52-megawatt facility on 485 acres off Mississippi 42.

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