

"...This blows. It's hard to tell which way the wind will blow. Just ask Austin Energy. The city's electric provider must shell out \$1.9 million to the state's Public Utility Commission this month because it didn't accurately predict how much power it would receive from its wind farms.

"Austin Energy thought its wind-power generators would supply Austin with about 75 megawatts of power not long ago, so the municipal utility reserved that much space on the state's power grid.

"The only problem: The breeze wasn't blowing quite as much as expected, so Austin Energy needlessly tied up transmission lines. Austin Energy had been arguing with state regulators about whether it should have to pay for the miscalculation but the City Council voted July 31 to settle the dispute with a \$1.9 million payoff, city spokesman David Matustik says.

"Austin Energy spokesman Ed Clark says the unpredictability of wind power has caused headaches for many of Texas' power providers, but recent changes to the Public Utility Commission's rules probably will prevent the issue from coming up again... "

(Just another way to shift the costs FROM the "wind farm" owner to electric customers.)

The Austin Business Journal