

To the Editor February 22, 2021

The Texas Fiasco

Millions without heat, power, food and water for days. Water pipes exploding in homes.

Hundreds treated in hospitals for carbon monoxide poisoning and hypothermia. Some deaths.

It's not like this was predictable or anything.

Why does Texas have its own power grid?

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/curious-texas/2021/02/16/how-did-texas-wind-up-on-its-own-electrical-grid-curious-texas-investigates/>

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Federal Power Act, which gave the federal government the authority to regulate interstate power lines. Texas, having created its own grid, decided it wanted no part of the act. They wanted to keep them all in Texas so they wouldn't be subject to this new federal power over electricity.

Texas set the stage for its energy crisis more than 80 years ago

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/texas-set-stage-its-energy-crisis-more-80-years-ago-n1258341>

Borrowing electricity from other states would have expedited an end to the energy crisis.

Texas Leaders Ignored Warnings A Decade Ago That Their Power Supply Was In Danger

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/zahrahirji/texas-power-outage-causes-2011>

Not only did federal regulators identify that the state's energy system was vulnerable to extreme cold, but even the state's grid operator and several power suppliers all acknowledged the need for wells, pipelines, and power plants to be better protected from the low temperatures. But it's clear that didn't happen.

Despite blaming Democrats for the Green New Deal, it seems that solar may have saved their bacon.

How Texas solar helped meet winter storm challenges, and could go even further

<https://www.pv-tech.org/how-texas-solar-helped-meet-winter-storm-challenges-and-could-go-even-further/>

*Indeed, an analysis of the data presented by US trade body the Solar Energy Industries Alliance (SEIA) published on Wednesday 17 February illustrated how in the three days following 13 February, thermal power plant output was down **25%** while renewables output was down just **1%**.*

Certainly, wind turbines work here in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the world, with the right equipment and/or deicing processes.

Thirsty, Cold, and Scooping Feces With Their Hands: Crisis in Reality Winner's Texas Prison

<https://theintercept.com/2021/02/20/reality-winner-prison-cold-texas-freezing/>

"Dying of Cold": ICE Detainees Freezing in Southern Prisons

<https://theintercept.com/2021/02/19/ice-detention-cold-freezing-texas-louisiana/>

Isn't it odd how this whole no regulations, no building codes, no taxes thing only works out for the wealthy?