

WATCHING RAINFALL WITH POWER NEEDS IN MIND

9,000 megawatts in Texas depend on historically low supplies

Right now only 24 megawatts of power generation have evaporated from the state's electric grid due to this year's record-setting drought, but that could easily change for the worse.

Consider what happens if East Texas gets just half its normal winter and spring rainfall, said H.B. "Trip" Doggett, president and chief executive officer of the *Electric Reliability Council of Texas*.

Half the normal rainfall, he told the *Texas Public Utility Commission* on Thursday, would drop the availability of electric generation by more than 400 megawatts. That's about enough to power 200,000 average-sized Texas homes during non-summer months, according to *ERCOT*.

"If no significant rainfall is received," Doggett added, "we could go as high as 3,000 megawatts in the May timeframe."