

Hector the Regulator — Squeezing the balloon

My name is Hector. I work for the electricity regulator.



I think that my job is to find a way to pay for a big transmission system.

Victor Moneybags owns the transmission system.



His friend Huell says that it will be bad if I cannot raise the money.



Charging for transmission transfer capacity sounded good. I called it ICRP. But it turns out transfer capacity is kinda small compared to the amount of transmission capacity Mr Moneybags said we needed.

The idea of getting serious money from generators went south when it turned out that it would put our generators out of business and leave us with lots of imported electricity that would smell of garlic.



Charging for peak-time demand led to lots of people building little power stations to cancel out peak-time demand, and Sir Victor said it did not save him much money at all.

I tried to fiddle the rules so that they would pay even for demand that had been cancelled out. I got sued for attempted discrimination.

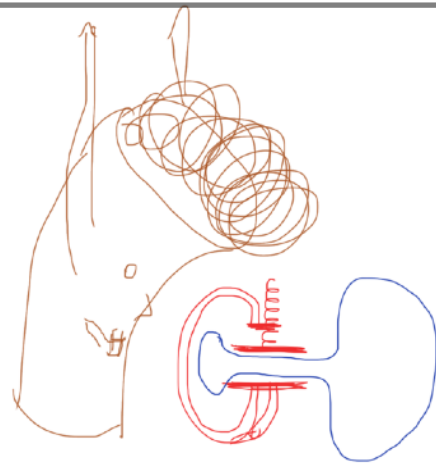
And they just hid behind the meter to carry on doing it anyway!

Now I am looking at charging for demand at other times, maybe a red time band or units at all time or maximum demand or capacity or something.

But I bet that whatever I choose to charge for will start disappearing; and Lord Moneybags will not reduce his demands.



Whenever I try to charge for something, people just stop using that very thing.



It's like trying to squeeze a balloon.