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\*ADM. KEN

February 9, 1981

Charles Bechhoefer, Chairman  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dr. Emmeth A. Luebke  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dr. James C. Lamb III  
Administrative Judge  
313 Woodhaven Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

In the Matter of  
Houston Lighting and Power Company, et al.  
(South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2)  
Docket Nos. 50-498, 50-499

Gentlemen:

We are in receipt of the NRC staff's January 26, 1981 letter to the Members of the Board, and wish to express our agreement that the hearing can be commenced in early May, despite the delay in the schedule for issuance of the Staff's Safety Evaluation Report (SER).

The Staff's letter proposes that the issues to be covered by the SER be deferred for hearing until late June, but that hearing on other issues be commenced



Members of the Board  
February 9, 1981  
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in early May. The Staff's SER is to address the quality assurance program for plant operation and the ability and competence of HL&P to manage the operation of STP (see the transcript of the November 19, 1980 prehearing conference at page 313). These matters are the primary focus of Issues C and F, as accepted for consideration by the Board's Order dated December 2, 1980. In Applicant's view, it will not adversely affect the orderly presentation of evidence to conduct a separate hearing session on the aspects of issues C and F related solely to Applicant's plans for plant operation.

Accordingly, Applicant supports the Staff's suggested schedule since it would permit an early commencement of the hearing on Issues A, B, D and E and intervenors' contentions 1 and 2.

The Board's second Prehearing Conference Order (December 2, 1980) adopted a schedule that requires identification of witnesses and the substance of testimony by all parties on March 2, 1981, and the filing of written testimony on April 15, 1981. If the Board accepts the Staff's proposed schedule modification, it would be helpful if the Board (1) would reaffirm the schedule for identification of witnesses and filing of testimony with respect to the matters to be considered in the early session of the hearing (presumably Issues A, B, D and E, and intervenors' contentions 1 and 2); and (2) would confirm the deferral of identification of witnesses and filing of testimony with respect to the matters to be covered in the Staff's SER (presumably Issues C and F) and indicate that the schedule for such filings will be established by the Board at a later date.

Sincerely,

*Jack R. Newman* *by AHG*

Jack R. Newman  
Counsel for Houston  
Lighting & Power Company

cc: Service List

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER	)	Docket Nos. 50-498 OL
COMPANY, <u>ET AL.</u>	)	50-499 OL
	)	
(South Texas Project, Units 1 )	)	
and 2)	)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the letter to the members of the Board from Jack R. Newman dated February 9, 1981, were served on the following by deposit in the mail, postage prepaid this 9th day of February, 1981.

Charles Bechhoefer, Chairman	Docketing and Service Section
Administrative Judge	Office of the Secretary
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission	Washington, D.C. 20555
Washington, D.C. 20555	

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Administrative Judge	Executive Director
313 Woodhaven Road	Citizens for Equitable Utilities, Inc.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514	Brazoria, TX 77422

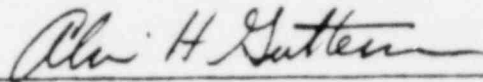
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