UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

JUN 3

BEFORE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WEH

In the Matter of

SERVED JUN 03 1982

HOUSTON LIGHTING AND POWER COMPANY, ET AL.
(South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2)

Docket Nos. STN 50-498 OL 50-499 OL

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RESPONSE TO OBJECTION TO FILING OF AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF

On May 19, 1982, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, through its Legal Counsel, submitted an <u>amicus curiae</u> brief in this proceeding responding to the issues presented by the Commission in its May 6 Order concerning review of the disqualification of Judge Ernest E. Hill. We prepared this brief because of our conviction (1) that Judge Hill's interest in the vindication of his personal and professional reputation ought to be defended; and (2) that a case on his behalf should be presented by a party having no interest in the outcome of the licensing proceeding itself.

Intervenor Citizens for Equitable Utilities (CEU) has objected that our brief, as presently titled, creates the impression that all the judges who are members of the ASLBP have "weighed in" in favor of Judge Hill.

CEU argues that the brief should have been filed on behalf of Judge Hill personally in order to make clear that the interests sought to be protected are his and not those of the Panel.

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