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January 29, 1985

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VIA HAND DELIVERY

Lanny Alan Sinkin
Fourth Floor, Room 401
1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Houston Lighting & Power Company, et al.
South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499 *OL*

Dear Mr. Sinkin:

This will confirm our telephone conversations of January 28 and January 29, 1985, regarding your request for an extension of time to file CCANP's response to the NRC Staff's affidavit of December 21, 1984, regarding construction experience under the new contractors at the South Texas Project (STP).

As I mentioned, the scheduling of hearings, if any, in Phase II of this proceeding, and the associated scope of issues, may turn on the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's (ASLB) review of the Staff affidavit and the responses of the parties. Thus, the timeliness of these filings may affect the overall regulatory schedule for the Project. It is important that a timely determination be reached on the issuance of the operating license for STP so that the plant schedule is not jeopardized. Although fuel loading is not scheduled until December, 1986, given the uncertainties and unanticipated delays often associated with the adjudicatory process, it is vital that licensing hearings, if any, be scheduled promptly.

You had requested an extension to March 1, 1985, on grounds that the Staff affidavit, initially sent to your

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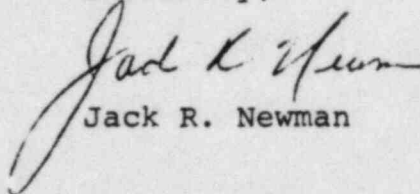
Lanny Alan Sinkin
January 29, 1985
Page Two

Austin address, did not reach you in Washington until January 21, 1985, and that page 14 of the affidavit, missing from that copy, had not yet reached your office. I had a copy of page 14 hand delivered to you yesterday. In addition, you noted that the amendment to the Staff affidavit was not issued until January 24, 1985.

I suggested that any extension of the time for filing responses to the Staff affidavit (as amended) be limited to February 15. After further discussions with you, I advised that Applicants would interpose no objection to a request for an extension, to February 25, 1985, of the date otherwise applicable to the responses of all parties (February 1, 1985) as specified in the Board's Fifth Prehearing Conference Order. We also agreed, with the concurrence of NRC Staff counsel, and subject to the approval of the Board, that responsive pleadings, if any, be filed by March 11, 1985.

You stated that you would make these requests of the Board and advise me of the Board's disposition of the matter.

Sincerely,



Jack R. Newman

JRN:so

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, ET AL.) 50-499 OL
)
(South Texas Project, Units 1)
and 2))

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of letter from Jack R. Newman to Lanny Alan Sinkin dated January 29, 1985, have been served on the following individuals and entities by deposit in the U.S. Mail, first class, postage prepaid, or by arranging for delivery as indicated by asterisk, on this 29th day of January, 1985.

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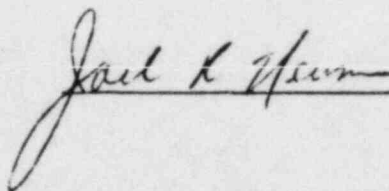
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