

HL&P Offers Tax Settlement

DICKINSON — Houston Lighting and Power Company and Galveston County have agreed to a settlement of disputed taxes on the Light Company's P. H. Robinson Generating Plant in Bacliff. In a judgment entered by Judge Markle of the 10th District Court of Galveston County, the suit HL&P had brought against the County was dismissed. The judgment cites a re-evaluation of the plant based on engineering studies, and under terms of the agreement HL&P has paid the County additional taxes of \$71,479.15 for 1970 and \$59,379.64 for 1971.

An HL&P spokesman acknowledged that the re-evaluation resulted in payment of more taxes than the company had originally felt were due, but added that the company agreed with the very thorough reappraisal of the plant carried out under the supervision

of C.R. Johnson, Tax Assessor-Collector of Galveston County.

A lawsuit between HL&P and the Dickinson Independent School District over the valuation of the P.H. Robinson Plant is still pending. HL&P's spokesman said the company has offered to pay taxes to DISD on the basis of the same valuation used by Galveston County, but that the school district has refused to accept this valuation.

Disputed in the HL&P-DISD suit are additional taxes for 1970 and 1971. During those years, HL&P paid taxes of \$918,894 and \$941,298 respectively -- representing almost half of the school district's total income from property taxes in those years.