



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 20, 1997

Mr. Glen Grunberger
Attorney
Litigation Support Division
Texas Natural Resource
Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

OR97-1165

Dear Mr. Grunberger:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 106781.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (the "commission") received a request for records regarding Inserv, Inc. You contend that section 552.103 of the Government Code exempts the records from required public disclosure.

To secure the protection of section 552.103(a), a governmental body must demonstrate that requested information "relates" to a pending or reasonably anticipated judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding. Open Records Decision No. 551 (1990). In this instance you have made the requisite showing that the requested information relates to reasonably anticipated litigation for purposes of section 552.103(a). The requested records may therefore be withheld.

In reaching this conclusion, however, we assume that the opposing party to the anticipated litigation has not previously had access to the records at issue; absent special circumstances, once information has been obtained by all parties to the litigation, *e.g.*, through discovery or otherwise, no section 552.103(a) interest exists with respect to that information. Open Records Decision Nos. 349 (1982), 320 (1982). If the opposing parties in the anticipated litigation have seen or had access to any of the information in these records, there would be no justification for now withholding that information from the requestor pursuant to section 552.103(a). We also note that the applicability of section 552.103(a) ends once the litigation has been concluded. Attorney General Opinion MW-575 (1982); Open Records Decision No. 350 (1982).

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Loretta R. DeHay
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

LRD/rho

Ref.: ID# 106781

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Richard R. Godinez
Jarvis & Kittleman
P.O. Box 1416
McAllen, Texas 78505-1416
(w/o enclosures)