



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

February 7, 2011

Mr. Kipling D. Giles  
Senior Counsel  
Legal Services Division  
CPS Energy  
P.O. Box 1771  
San Antonio, Texas 78296

OR2011-01824

Dear Mr. Giles:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 408352 .

The City Public Service Board of the City of San Antonio d/b/a CPS Energy ("CPS") received two requests for the bid tabulation for RFQ 7000097911 for the purchase of three welders. Although you take no position with respect to the public availability of the submitted information, you indicate its release may implicate the proprietary interests of AOC and Weldinghouse.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, you state, and have provided documentation showing, you notified AOC and Weldinghouse of the request and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (determining statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain the applicability of exception to disclose under Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why

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<sup>1</sup>The submitted information reveals Matheson-Trigas does not object to the disclosure of its information.

information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from AOC or Weldinghouse explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude AOC and Weldinghouse have protected proprietary interests in the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110; Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, CPS may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest AOC and Weldinghouse may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the submitted information must be released to the requestors.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index\\_orl.php](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Amy L.S. Shipp  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

ALS/tf

Ref: ID# 408352

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

AOC  
c/o Mr. Kipling D. Giles  
Senior Counsel  
Legal Services Division  
CPS Energy  
P.O. Box 1771  
San Antonio, Texas 78296  
(w/o enclosures)