



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

December 14, 2015

Mr. John A. Haislet
Senior Assistant City Attorney
City of College Station
P.O. Box 9960
College Station, Texas 77842

OR2015-26114

Dear Mr. Haislet:

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# 592022 (File No. A15-000907).

The City of College Station (the "city") received a request for the electric bills from August 2014 to August 2015 for a specified address. The city claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.133 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the city claims and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the requestor excludes information concerning the tenants from the request. Thus, such information is not responsive to the request, and this ruling does not address it.

Section 552.133 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure a public power utility's information that is "reasonably related to a competitive matter." Gov't Code § 552.133(b). Section 552.133 provides, in relevant part:

(a) In this section, "public power utility" means an entity providing electric or gas utility services that is subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(a-1) For purposes of this section, “competitive matter” means a utility-related matter that is related to the public power utility’s competitive activity, including commercial information, and would, if disclosed, give advantage to competitors or prospective competitors. The term:

(1) means a matter that is reasonably related to the following categories of information:

...

(F) customer billing, contract, and usage information, electric power pricing information, system load characteristics, and electric power marketing analyses and strategies[.]

Id. § 552.133(a), (a-1)(1)(F). The city explains College Station Utilities is a municipally-owned utility service and is a public power utility for purposes of section 552.133. The city asserts the information relates to customer billing, contract, usage information, and electric power pricing information that can be used by businesses or competitors to compete or solicit business. Upon review of the information, we agree it is subject to section 552.133 of the Government Code, and the city must withhold it on this basis.

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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Yen-Ha Le
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

YHL/sb

Ref: ID# 592022

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)