



May 3, 2001

Ms. Cynthia J. Hill
Acting General Counsel
General Services Commission
P.O. Box 13047
Austin, Texas 78711-3047

OR2001-1805

Dear Ms. Hill:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 146735.

The General Services Commission ("GSC") received a request for a copy of proposal RFO-303-1-0624-FCMS/CMS-1 submitted to the GSC by Orion Communications. You state you have notified Orion Communications of the request for a copy of its proposal by copy of your request letter to this office dated March 1, 2001. Gov't Code § 552.305 (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (determining that statutory predecessor to Gov't Code § 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in Open Records Act in certain circumstances). You further state you have released certain information deemed releasable to the requestor, but without taking a position on the release of the information, you ask whether the remainder of the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.110 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

We note that the responsive information consists of a Proposal for General Services Commission, Work Breakdown Schedule Best and Final Offer, and Work Breakdown Schedule Best and Final Offer Version 2 submitted by Orion Communications. To date, this office has not received any correspondence from Orion Communications regarding this request. Because Orion Communications has not demonstrated that section 552.110 applies,

you must release the requested information. See Open Records Decision Nos. 639 at 4 (1996) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual or evidentiary material, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that it actually faces competition and that substantial competitive injury would likely result from disclosure), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish prima facie case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3 (1990).

This letter ruling is limited to the particular records 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 records or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For example, governmental bodies are prohibited from asking the attorney general to reconsider this ruling. Gov't Code § 552.301(f). If the governmental body wants to challenge this ruling, the governmental body must appeal by filing suit in Travis County within 30 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.324(b). In order to get the full benefit of such an appeal, the governmental body must file suit within 10 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.353(b)(3), (c). If the governmental body does not appeal this ruling and the governmental body does not comply with it, then both the requestor and the attorney general have the right to file suit against the governmental body to enforce this ruling. *Id.* § 552.321(a).

If this ruling requires the governmental body to release all or part of the requested information, the governmental body is responsible for taking the next step. Based on the statute, the attorney general expects that, within 10 calendar days of this ruling, the governmental body will do one of the following three things: 1) release the public records; 2) notify the requestor of the exact day, time, and place that copies of the records will be provided or that the records can be inspected; or 3) notify the requestor of the governmental body's intent to challenge this letter ruling in court. If the governmental body fails to do one of these three things within 10 calendar days of this ruling, then the requestor should report that failure to the attorney general's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at 877/673-6839. The requestor may also file a complaint with the district or county attorney. *Id.* § 552.3215(e).

If this ruling requires or permits the governmental body to withhold all or some of the requested information, the requestor can appeal that decision by suing the governmental body. *Id.* § 552.321(a); *Texas Department of Public Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 411 (Tex. App.--Austin 1992, no writ).

Please remember that under the Act the release of information triggers certain procedures for costs and charges to the requestor. If records are released in compliance with this ruling, be sure that all charges for the information are at or below the legal amounts. Questions or

complaints about over-charging must be directed to Hadassah Schloss at the General Services Commission at 512/475-2497.

If the governmental body, the requestor, or any other person has questions or comments about this ruling, they may contact our office. Although there is no statutory deadline for contacting us, the attorney general prefers to receive any comments within 10 calendar days of the date of this ruling.

Sincerely,



Yen-Ha Le
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

YHL/DBF/seg

Ref: ID# 146735

Encl. Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Wuilliam E. Parker
Arthur Andersen, L.L.P.
111 Congress
Austin, Texas 78701
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Leslie DeLatte
Vice President, Sales & Operations
Orion Communications, Inc.
7142 Shook Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75214