



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 2, 2009

Ms. Cary Grace
Assistant City Attorney
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767-8828

OR2009-15497

Dear Ms. Grace:

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# 360430.

Austin Energy ("AE") received a request for the current cost for the South Texas Nuclear Project. You state some of the requested information will be released to the requestor. You claim that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.133 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.133 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure a public power utility's information related to a competitive matter. Section 552.133 provides in relevant part:

Information or records are excepted from [required public disclosure] if the information or records are reasonably related to a competitive matter, as defined in this section. Excepted information or records include the text of any resolution of the public power utility governing body determining which issues, activities, or matters constitute competitive matters. Information or records of a municipally owned utility that are reasonably related to a competitive matter are not subject to disclosure under this chapter, whether or not, under the Utilities Code, the municipally owned utility has adopted customer choice or serves in a multiply certificated service area. This section does not limit the right of a public power utility governing body to withhold from disclosure information deemed to be within the scope of any other exception provided for in this chapter, subject to the provisions of this chapter.

Gov't Code § 552.133(b). Section 552.133(a)(3) defines a "competitive matter" as a matter the public power utility governing body in good faith determines by vote to be related to the

public power utility's competitive activity, and the release of which would give an advantage to competitors or prospective competitors. *Id.* § 552.133(a)(3). However, section 552.133(a)(3) also provides thirteen categories of information that may not be deemed competitive matters. The attorney general may conclude section 552.133 is inapplicable to the requested information only if, based on the information provided, the attorney general determines the public power utility governing body has not acted in good faith in determining that the issue, matter, or activity is a competitive matter or that the information requested is not reasonably related to a competitive matter. *Id.* § 552.133(c).

AE is a public power utility for purposes of section 552.133. You inform us, and provide documentation showing, the City of Austin's City Council (the "city council"), as governing body of AE, passed a resolution by vote pursuant to section 552.133 in which the city council defined the information considered to be within the scope of the term "competitive matter." You assert, and have submitted documentation showing, the submitted information comes within the scope of specified provisions within the resolution. The submitted information is not among the thirteen categories of information section 552.133(a)(3) expressly excludes from the definition of competitive matter. Furthermore, we have no evidence the city council failed to act in good faith. *See id.* § 552.133(c). Based on your representations and our review, we determine the submitted information relates to competitive matters in accordance with the submitted resolution. Therefore, AE must withhold the submitted information pursuant to section 552.133 of the Government Code.

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, 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,



Sarah Casterline
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

SEC/jb

Ref: ID# 360430

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)