



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

July 27, 2010

Mr. Matt Wade  
General Counsel  
Lubbock Power and Light  
P.O. Box 2000  
Lubbock, Texas 79401

OR2010-11246

Dear Mr. Wade:

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# 388281.

The City of Lubbock and Lubbock Power and Light (collectively, the "city") received two requests from the same requestor for billing information pertaining to electric and water, sewer, solid waste or storm water service accounts pertaining to ten named individuals. You state you have released some information to the requestor. You claim the submitted residential electric billing information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.133 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.133 excepts from disclosure a public power utility's information related to a competitive matter. Section 552.133(b) provides:

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).

The city informs us that it owns and operates a public power utility for purposes of section 552.133. The city has also submitted a copy of a resolution delineating categories of information that have been determined by the city to be competitive matters for purposes of section 552.133. Based on our review of your arguments and the resolution, we find that the submitted residential electric billing information relates to a competitive matter as defined under the resolution. In addition, we have no evidence to conclude that the city failed to act in good faith in adopting this resolution, and the adopted competitive matter in that resolution does not clearly fall within any of the thirteen categories of information made public by section 552.133(a). Thus, we conclude that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.133 of the Government Code and must be withheld from the requestor on this basis. As our ruling is dispositive, we do not address your remaining argument against disclosure.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Shipp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and the last name "Shipp" clearly distinguishable.

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

ALS/eeg

Ref: ID# 388281

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)