



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

August 18, 2010

Mr. James Mu  
Assistant General Counsel  
TDCJ - Office of the General Counsel  
P.O. Box 4004  
Huntsville, Texas 77342-4004

OR2010-12539

Dear Mr. Mu:

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# 390853.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the "department") received a request for a specified proposal and submittal. Although you take no position with respect to the public availability of the submitted information, you state that its release may implicate the proprietary interests of Johnson Controls, Inc. ("Johnson"). Accordingly, you state that you have notified Johnson of the request and of its 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 that 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.

Interested third parties are allowed ten business days after the date of their receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit their reasons, if any, as to why 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 Johnson explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude that Johnson has 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 (1990). Thus, as no exceptions to disclosure are raised, the submitted information must be released.

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,



James McGuire  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JM/dls

Ref: ID# 390853

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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(w/o enclosures)