



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 13, 2013

Mr. Kipling D. Giles
Senior Counsel
Legal Services Division
CPS Energy
P.O. Box 1771
San Antonio, Texas 78296-1771

OR2013-15989

Dear Mr. Giles:

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# 499203.

The City Public Service Board of the City of San Antonio d/b/a CPS Energy ("CPS") received a request for the winning bidder for each of three awards on a specified contract. Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of McCoy Tree Surgery ("McCoy"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified McCoy of the request for information 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) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

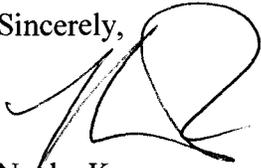
An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) of the Government Code to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from McCoy explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude McCoy has a protected proprietary interest 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. Accordingly, CPS may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest McCoy may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been 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.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,



Nneka Kanu
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NK/bhf

Ref: ID# 499203

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Samuel D. Batty
McCoy Tree Surgery
3201 Broce Drive
Norman, Oklahoma 73072
(w/o enclosures)