

Competition Tribunal



Tribunal de la concurrence

Citation: *Canada (Commissioner of Competition) v Secure Energy Services Inc.*, 2021 Comp Trib 6

File No.: CT-2021-002

Registry Document No.: 26

IN THE MATTER OF the applications filed by the Commissioner of Competition (the “Commissioner”) against the Respondent (“Secure”) pursuant to sections 92 and 104 of the Competition Act, RSC 1985, c C-34, as amended

BETWEEN:

Commissioner of Competition
(applicant)

and

Secure Energy Services Inc.
(respondent)



Decided on the basis of the written record

Before Judicial Member: J. Gagné

Date of order: July 13, 2021

CONFIDENTIALITY ORDER

FURTHER TO the acquisition of Tervita Corporation (previously named as a respondent in this file) by Secure;

AND FURTHER to the draft confidentiality order filed on consent by the parties:

THE TRIBUNAL ORDERS THAT:

[1] For the purpose of this Order:

- (a) **“Act”** means the *Competition Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-34, as amended;
- (b) **“Affiliate”** has the same meaning as in subsection 2(2) of the Act;
- (c) **“Designated Representatives”** means one in house counsel and up to six additional individuals designated by the Respondent who will be permitted access to Records designated as Level B Protected Documents in accordance with the terms of this Order, which designations shall be made by written notice to the Tribunal with a copy sent concomitantly to the Commissioner. The Commissioner may make a motion to the Tribunal objection to such designations;
- (d) **“Independent Expert”** means an expert retained by a Party with respect to the Proceedings who (i) is not a current employee of the Respondent; (ii) has not been an employee of the Respondent within 2 years prior to the date of this Order, (iii) is not a current employee of a competitor of the Respondent; (iv) has not been an employee of a competitor of the Respondent within two years prior to the date of this Order; and (v) has executed the Confidentiality Undertaking in the form attached as Schedule A hereto;
- (e) **“Parties”** means the Commissioner and the Respondent collectively, and **“Party”** means any one of them;
- (f) **“Person”** means any individual or corporation or partnership, sole proprietorship, trust or other unincorporated organization capable of conducting business, and any Affiliates thereof;
- (g) **“Proceedings”** means the applications filed by the Commissioner against the Respondents (File Number CT-2021-002) for orders pursuant to sections 92 and 104 of the Act;
- (h) **“Protected Record”** means any Record (including the information such Record contains) that is produced in the Proceedings, including Records listed in affidavits of documents, excerpts from transcripts of examinations for discovery, answers to

undertakings, Records produced with answers to undertakings, expert reports, lay witness statements, pleadings, affidavits and submissions that:

- i. the Party producing the Record claims is confidential pursuant to Section 2 of this Order; or
 - ii. the Tribunal has determined is confidential;
- (i) **“Record”** has the same meaning as in subsection 2(1) of the Act and, for greater certainty, includes any email or other correspondence, memorandum, pictorial or graphic work, spreadsheet or other machine readable record and any other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics;
 - (j) **“Record Review Vendor”** means a professional service provider retained by a Party with respect to the Proceedings to facilitate the review of Records, both digital and paper, by legal professionals and who has executed the Confidentiality Undertaking in the form attached as Schedule A hereto;
 - (k) **“Respondent”** means Secure (as defined below);
 - (l) **“Secure”** means Secure Energy Services Inc, its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors and assigns; and all joint ventures, subsidiaries, divisions, groups and Affiliates controlled by the foregoing entities, and their respective directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors and assigns of each;
 - (m) **“Third Party”** means any Person other than the Commissioner or the Respondent; and
 - (n) **“Tribunal”** means the Competition Tribunal established pursuant to subsection 3(1) of the *Competition Tribunal Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. 19 (2nd Supp.), as amended.

[2] Disclosure of Records containing any of the following types of information could cause specific and direct harm, to extent they or the information therein are not already publicly available, and such Records may be designated as Protected Records:

- (a) information relating to prices, capacity, specific output or revenue data or market shares, or negotiations with customers or suppliers about prices, rates or incentives produced by the Respondent or a Third Party;
- (b) confidential contractual arrangements between the Respondent and their customers, agents, and/or suppliers or between a Third Party and their customers, agents, and/or suppliers;

- (c) financial data or reports, or financial information relating to the Respondent or its customers, suppliers or a Third Party;
- (d) business plans, marketing plans, strategic plans, budgets, forecasts and other similar information of the Respondent or a Third Party;
- (e) internal market studies and analyses of the Respondent or a Third Party;
- (f) internal investigative and related Records belonging to the Commissioner; and
- (g) other Records containing competitively sensitive and/or proprietary information of a Respondent or a Third Party.

[3] Without prejudice to any position or argument the Respondent may take or make in the Proceedings and in any related appeals, including (without limiting the generality of the foregoing) with respect to any claim of privilege by the Commissioner, the Commissioner may designate as a Level A Protected (as defined below), any information that could identify a Third Party who is reasonably concerned about the public disclosure of its identity.

[4] If information from a Protected Record is incorporated into any other Record, that Record shall be a Protected Record. Any Protected Record shall cease to be a Protected Record if: (a) it or the protected information contained therein becomes publicly available (except if it becomes publicly available through a breach of this Order); (b) if the Parties agree in writing that the Record shall cease to be a Protected Record; or (c) the Tribunal determines that the Record shall cease to be a Protected Record.

[5] Protected Records will be identified in the following manner for the purpose of the Proceedings:

- (a) a Party claiming that a Record is a Protected Record shall, at the time of production of a Protected Record, mark it with the name of the Party producing the Record and with **“Confidential – Level A”** or **“Confidential – Level B”** on the face of each Record and/or on each page that is claimed as confidential;
- (b) subject to Section 4 of this Order, all Records designated as Protected Records shall be treated as a Protected Record, save for determination otherwise by the Tribunal or re-designation pursuant to Section 9 below;
- (c) the inadvertent failure to designate a Record or portion thereof as a Protected Record at the time it is disclosed does not constitute waiver of the right to so designate after disclosure has been made;

- (d) if a Record originates with or from more than one Party and is designated by at least one Party as a Protected Record, the highest level of confidentiality shall universally attach to that Record, subject to the resolution of any challenge to that claim of confidentiality;
- (e) at any point in the Proceedings, a Party may challenge a claim of confidentiality or level of confidentiality made by another Party. The Parties shall use their best efforts to agree as to whether the Records (or portions thereof) are to be treated as Protected Records; and
- (f) if agreement cannot be reached, the Parties may apply to the Tribunal to determine whether the Record or a portion thereof is a Protected Record or what level of confidentiality should apply to a Protected Record.

[6] Subject to a further order of the Tribunal, the consent of the Party or Parties that produced and claimed confidentiality over the Protected Record, or as required by law, Protected Records marked “Confidential – Level A” (“**Level A Protected**”) may be disclosed only to:

- (a) the Commissioner, counsel to the Commissioner, and the Commissioner’s staff;
- (b) outside counsel to the Respondents and outside counsel’s staff who are directly involved in the Proceedings;
- (c) Independent Experts and their staff who are directly involved in the Proceedings; and
- (d) Record Review Vendors.

[7] Subject to a further order of the Tribunal, the consent of the Party or Parties that produced and claimed confidentiality over the Protected Record, or as required by law, Protected Records marked “Confidential – Level B” (“**Level B Protected**”) may be disclosed only to:

- (a) the individuals described in Section 6 above; and
- (b) Designated Representatives of the Respondents who have executed the Confidentiality Undertaking in the form attached as Schedule A.

[8] Notwithstanding any provision of this Order, the Commissioner may disclose any Records designated as Level A Protected or Level B Protected that he has so designated, and that

have not been produced in the Proceedings by the Respondent or otherwise originated from the Respondent, to any Person for the purpose of preparing for the hearing of the Proceedings, subject to the limits prescribed by section 29 of the Act.

- [9]** A Party may at any time and with prior reasonable notice to the other Party re-designate any of its own Records designated as Level A Protected as Level B Protected or public Records, and/or may re-designate any of its own Records designated as Level B Protected as public Records. Where another Party disputes the re-designation, the Tribunal shall determine the proper designation. Records re-designated as public shall cease to be Protected Records and shall form part of the public record if introduced into evidence at the hearing of the Proceedings, unless the Parties agree otherwise or the Tribunal so orders. If a Party changes the designation of a Record to a Protected Record, a prior disclosure of it shall not constitute a breach of this Order.
- [10]** If a Party is required by law to disclose a Protected Record, or if a Party receives written notice from a Person who has signed a Confidentiality Undertaking pursuant to this Order that they are required by law to disclose a Protected Record, that Party shall give prompt written notice to the Party that claimed confidentiality over the Protected Record so that a protective order or other appropriate remedy may be sought.
- [11]** Outside counsel to the Respondent and their staff, counsel to the Commissioner, the Commissioner and his staff, and Independent Experts and their staff, may make copies of any Protected Record as they require in connection with the Proceedings.
- [12]** Nothing in this Order prevents either Party from having full access to or, in the case of the Respondent only, using or disclosing Protected Records that originated from that Party.
- [13]** For greater certainty, in accordance with section 62 of the *Competition Tribunal Rules*, all Persons who obtain access to Records and information through documentary, written and oral discovery through the Proceedings are subject to an implied undertaking to keep the Records and information confidential and to use the Records and information solely for the purposes of the Proceedings (including any application or proceedings to enforce any order made by the Tribunal in connection with the Proceedings) and any related appeals.
- [14]** At the hearing of the Proceedings:
- (a) Protected Records tendered as evidence at the hearing of the Proceedings shall be identified and clearly marked as such, in accordance with Paragraph 5(a), above;
 - (b) the Tribunal may determine whether the Record should be treated as a Protected Record;

- (c) Protected Records shall not form part of the public record unless the Party or Parties claiming confidentiality waive the claim, or the Tribunal determines that the Record is not a Protected Record;
 - (d) Records over which no privilege or confidentiality claim has been asserted shall, unless otherwise determined by the Tribunal at the hearing, form part of the public record in the Proceedings if introduced into evidence or otherwise placed on the record. Public Records shall be marked “Public” on the face of the Record; and
 - (e) nothing in this Order shall abrogate or derogate any legal onus, burden or requirement applicable to a sealing order or abrogate or derogate in any way from the rights of the Parties to assert confidentiality claims during the course of the hearing.
- [15]** The Parties shall provide the Tribunal with redacted versions of Protected Records at the time any such Records are introduced into evidence or otherwise placed on the record, which redacted versions shall be marked “Public” on the face of the Record and shall form part of the public record in the Proceedings. Each Protected Record shall identify the portions of the Record which have been redacted from the “Public” version, by highlighting such portions in the Protected Record.
- [16]** The termination of the Proceedings shall not relieve any Person to whom Protected Records were disclosed pursuant to this Order from the obligation of maintaining the confidentiality of such Protected Records in accordance with the provisions of this Order and any Confidentiality Undertaking, subject to any further order of the Tribunal.
- [17]** Upon completion or final disposition of the Proceedings and any related appeals, all Protected Records and any copies of Protected Records, with the exception of Protected Records in the possession of the Commissioner and his staff, shall be destroyed or returned to the Party that produced them unless the Party that produced the Protected Records states, in writing, that they may be disposed of in some other manner, provided that outside counsel to the Respondent and counsel to the Commissioner may keep copies of Protected Records in their files and that any copies of Protected Records as may exist in the Parties' automatic electronic backup and archival systems may be kept provided that deletion is not reasonably practical and the copies are retained in confidence and not used for any purpose other than backup and archival purposes.
- [18]** The Parties shall bear their own costs associated with the request for and issuance of this Order.
- [19]** Nothing in this Order prevents or affects the ability of a Party from applying to the Tribunal for further orders or directions with respect to the use or disclosure of Records or information produced by another Party.

[20] The Tribunal shall retain jurisdiction to deal with any issues relating to this Order, including, without limitation, the enforcement of this Order and any undertakings executed pursuant to this Order. This Order shall be subject to further direction of the Tribunal and may be varied by order of the Tribunal.

DATED at Ottawa, this 13th day of July 2021.

SIGNED on behalf of the Tribunal by Jocelyne Gagné.

(s) Jocelyne Gagné

COUNSEL OF RECORD:

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