

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Application of)
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., a)
Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.,)
for an Advance Determination of)
Prudence of Montana-Dakota's)
Participation & Ownership Interest in the)
Big Stone II Generating Station)

Case No. PU-06-482

APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

COMES NOW, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. (Montana-Dakota) and respectfully moves the Commission for entry of a trade secret protective order under §69-02-09-01 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. The purpose of the requested protective order is to protect against public disclosure of trade secret information as defined by NDCC §47-25.1-01(4).

The specific information which needs protection at this time is the following market information provided in the prefiled direct testimony filed by Montana-Dakota on December 1, 2006:


- Exhibit No.__(KET-2) attached to the prefiled direct testimony of Mr. Kermit E. Trout Jr. with Black & Veatch Corporation.
- Tables 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of Exhibit No.__(JAH-2) attached to the prefiled direct testimony of Mr. James A. Heidell with PA Consulting Group.
- Exhibit No.__(TR-4) and Exhibit No. (TR-5) and attached to the prefiled direct testimony of Mr. Timothy J. Rogelstad with Otter Tail Power Company.

Montana-Dakota requests that trade secret protection be given to the above information. Such information is not publicly available, and is not only treated as confidential business information, but information which cannot be selectively disclosed without violating the public reporting requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Montana-Dakota believes that disclosure of the information would be of independent economic value to competitors and would create a competitive disadvantage for Montana-Dakota if publicly disclosed to others because of the competitive nature of the electric market.

In accordance with §69-02-09-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope which is labeled; TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of December, 2006.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.,
A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

By 
Donald R. Ball
Vice President- Regulatory Affairs