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**Celebrating 100 Years of Service  
1909 - 2009**

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**RECEIVED**

July 30, 2010

JUL 30 2010

**TRADE SECRET - PRIVATE**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**ETC FILINGS**

We enclose for filing on behalf of the following companies Trade Secret information to accompany the Annual Report for Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification which is also being sent to the Commission in another letter. The companies include:

1. BEK Communications Cooperative
2. Consolidated Telcom
3. Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative and Dakota Central Telecom I, Inc.
4. Dickey Rural Access, Inc.
5. Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
6. Dickey Rural Communications, Inc.
7. Griggs County Telephone Company
8. Moore and Liberty Telephone Company
9. Halstad Telephone Company
10. Inter-Community Telephone Company, LLC
11. Midstate Communications, Inc.
12. Midstate Telephone Company
13. Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc./Missouri Valley Communications, Inc.
14. Sagebrush Cellular, Inc.
15. North Dakota Telephone Company
16. Northwest Communications Cooperative
17. Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation #381614 and #381630

2 **PU-10-520** Filed: 7/30/2010 Pages: 7  
Application for Trade Secret Protection

North Dakota Public Service Commission

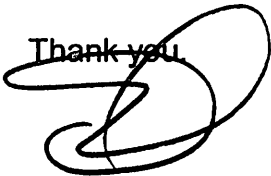
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July 30, 2010

18. Polar Telcom, Inc.
19. Wolverton Telephone Company
20. Reservation Telephone Cooperative
21. United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation/Turtle Mountain Communications, Inc.
22. West River Telecommunications Cooperative

The enclosed Trade Secret information, which is in a separate sealed envelope for each company, corresponds with the four-page document that was signed by each of the companies listed above and is the Exhibit A information for these companies.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Don Negaard', written over the printed text 'Thank you'.

Don Negaard

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Enclosures

**North Dakota Public Service Commission**

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**July 30, 2010**

**cc/enc: Derrick Bulawa, Manager - BEK Communications Cooperative  
Paul Schuetzler, Manager - Consolidated Telcom  
Keith Larson, Manager - Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative and  
Dakota Central Telecom I, Inc.  
Jeff Wilson, Manager - Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative,  
Dickey Rural Communications, Inc., and Dickey Rural Access, Inc.  
Ray G. Brown, Manager - Griggs County Telephone Company  
and Moore and Liberty Telephone Company  
Tom Maroney, Manager, Halstad Telephone Company  
Keith Andersen, Manager - Inter-Community Telephone Company, LLC  
Mark Wilhelmi, Manager - Midstate Telephone Company and Midstate Communications, Inc.  
Mike Kilgore, Manager, Nemont Telephone/Missouri Valley Communications, Inc., and  
Sagebrush Cellular  
Dave Dircks, Manager - North Dakota Telephone Company  
Dwight Schmitt, Manager - Northwest Communications Cooperative  
David L. Dunning, Manager - Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation, Polar Telcom,  
Inc., and Wolverton Telephone Company  
Royce S. Aslakson, Manager - Reservation Telephone Cooperative  
Kenneth Carlson, Manager - United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation  
and Turtle Mountain Communications, Inc.  
Albert R. Grosz, Manager - West River Telecommunications Cooperative**

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**APPLICATION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER  
AND TRADE SECRET PROTECTION  
OF RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY GROUP**

Each company which is listed individually on Attachment A hereto and collectively referred to as the Rural Telephone Company Group (the "RTCG") hereby moves the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the "Commission") for an Order under Chapter 69-02-09 and section 69-02-09-04 of the North Dakota Administrative Code granting Trade Secret Protection to certain of the materials filed by each individual company of the RTCG in compliance with North Dakota Administrative Code section 69-09-05-12(3) and section 69-09-05-12.1 in order to file their annual 2008 Essential Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") reports.

1. Description. The information which each individual member of the RTCG wishes to have designated as Confidential is contained in a separate envelope for each individual company and is marked "TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE."

In general, the information so designated for each applicant company consists of:

- a. A description of Service Improvement Plans,
- b. A summary of the Expenditures of each company in the prior calendar year,
- c. An estimate of the Universal Service Support to be received in the upcoming calendar year and the planned capital expenditures of each company,

- d. A description of improvements and upgrades, and
- e. An outage report.

2. The information so designated by each applicant company derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other persons because the information is maintained as proprietary information and is not shared with the public or competitors except in a more general sense. The level of detail involved would easily allow competitors to determine the level of support and the cost of service to study areas and exchanges in each company's service areas.

3. The information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons because it contains a description of matters which is only reviewed and known by the highest management level personnel and includes descriptions of capital spending plans and improvements in detail not available to those outside the management group.

4. A general description of those persons or entities that could obtain economic value from the disclosure or use of the information are competitor or potential competitors which include wireless providers, cable television providers, competitive local exchange carriers, internet providers, dish networks, and other local exchange carriers.

5. A specific description of the known competitors and competitors' goods and services that are pertinent to this filing are:

- a. Alltel, AT&T, and Verizon: cellular, CMRS, and data plans.
- b. Midcontinent Communications: video, internet, and telecommunications.
- c. Qwest: voice, data, and video services.

In addition to these providers, there is a host of competing technologies and providers on a national scale, such as Vonage and other providers of internet and voice over the internet providers ("VOIP") services.

6. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information includes assuring that access to the information is restricted to the employees and management-level persons who have a need to know the information and it is not disclosed to persons outside the company except under strict circumstances.

Dated at Minot, North Dakota, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010.

PRINGLE & HERGISTAD, P.C.



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By: Don Negaard, ND Bar ID #03598  
Attorneys for each individual company  
listed in attached Exhibit A of the  
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P.O. Box 1000  
Minot, ND 58702-1000  
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**ATTACHMENT A**

BEK Communications Cooperative  
Consolidated Telcom  
Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative and Dakota Central Telecom I, Inc.  
Dickey Rural Access, Inc.  
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative  
Dickey Rural Communications, Inc.  
Griggs County Telephone Company  
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