

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Qwest Corporation  
Access Service  
Price Schedule**

**Case No. PU-12-261**

**ORDER GRANTING TRADE SECRET PROTECTION**

**June 20, 2012**

**Preliminary Statement**

1. Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (CenturyLink) applied for trade secret protection on June 8, 2012, pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01 and requested a protective order in accordance with the provisions of the N.D. Admin. Code.
2. The information identified by their application includes confidential and proprietary information regarding detailed volume and demand data by individual component of access service, which are competitively sensitive. This information could have economic value to potential competitors and is highly sensitive.
3. Commission staff as required by N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-03 have on June 13, 2012, made a prima facie recommendation that the information is trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4).
4. The information for which trade secret protection is sought is highly confidential and of a propriety and financial nature and as provided in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4, has been kept confidential by CenturyLink and would be of advantage to competitors if not protected.
5. If competitors had access to such confidential information, it could adversely affect prices all to the ultimate disadvantage of consumers and customers of CenturyLink.
6. The Commission, in consideration of Staff's prima facie recommendation, determines that the information is a trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. ch. 47-25.1 and

N.D. Admin. Code ch. 69-02-09;

**IT IS, THEREFORE,**

**ORDERED** CenturyLink is hereby granted trade secret protection pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of N.D.C.C. ch. 47-25.1 and N.D. Admin. Code ch. 69-02-09 for the information identified by the application; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this order shall not constitute precedent for a determination of entitlement to trade secret protection for any information upon any subsequent application.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**



**Kevin Cramer  
Commissioner**



**Brian P. Kalk  
Chairman**

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**Vacant**