

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc.
Switched Access
Price Schedule**

Case No. PU-12-268

**Daktel Communications, LLC
Switched Access
Price Schedule**

Case No. PU-12-269

**Midstate Communications, Inc.
Switched Access
Price Schedule**

Case No. PU-12-270

**Midstate Telephone Company
Switched Access
Price Schedule**

Case No. PU-12-271

**Polar Telcom, Inc.
Switched Access
Price Schedule**

Case No. PU-12-283

ORDER GRANTING TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

June 20, 2012

Preliminary Statement

1. The North Dakota Intrastate Access Group – North Dakota Tariff No. 1 Issuing Carriers (Carriers) applied for trade secret protection on May 15, 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 which may be offered as evidence for the hearing of the consolidated captioned cases now before the commission includes detailed, financial, minutes of use, demand, revenue, and rate design information that is known only to the individual companies and for which trade secret protection is sought.
3. Commission staff as required by N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-03 have on June 8, 2012, made a prima facie recommendation that the information is relevant for the hearing of this case and is a 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 each Issuing Carrier / Company and would be of advantage to competitors if not protected.

5. If competitors or potential competitors, equipment and material vendors, contractors, or suppliers had access to such confidential information, it could adversely affect prices all to the ultimate disadvantage of consumers and customers of Carriers or Companies.

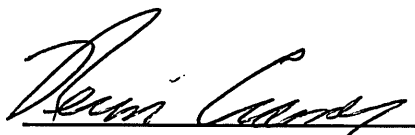
6. The Commission, in consideration of Staff's prima facie recommendation, determines both that the information is relevant for the hearing of this case and that the information is a trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. ch. 47-25.1 and N.D. Admin. Code ch. 69-02-09;

IT IS, THEREFORE,

ORDERED the Carriers are 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**

Vacant