

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.

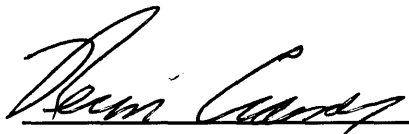
6. The Commission, in consideration of Staff's prima facie recommendation, determines both that the information is relevant for the hearing of this case and that the information is a trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. ch. 47-25.1 and N.D. Admin. Code ch. 69-02-09;

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