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JUL 11 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

July 9, 2012

North Dakota Public Service Commission
ATTN: Mr. Darrell Nitschke
600 East Boulevard Ave., Twelfth Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Application for Trade Secret Protection

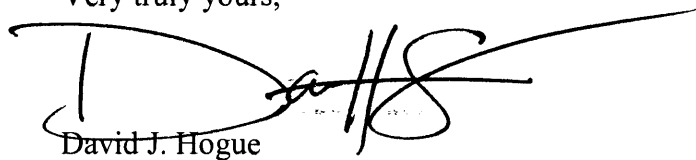
Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed please find one (1) original and eight (8) copies of the following document in the above-referenced matter:

1. Application for Trade Secret Protection.

I have also enclosed one copy of the Attachment 1: Trade Secret Private information, marked and sealed in a separate envelope. If you have any questions regarding the same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



David J. Hogue

DJH/klb

Enclosures

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

)
) Case No. PU-12-_____
)
)
)

APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

COMES NOW, Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation (“applicant”) 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).

1. A general description of the nature of the information sought to be protected.

The financial information requested to be submitted with the filing reflects detailed financial, minutes-of-use, demand, revenue, and rate design information that is only known to the applicant, and their authorized agents. This information submitted with this Application as Attachment 1, is highly confidential, in that it is only maintained by applicant and not available through any source other than the companies or their authorized agents. Furthermore, this information could have economic value to potential competitors, and in a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive and its public disclosure would place the applicant at a competitive disadvantage.

2. Explanation of why the information derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other persons.

The information could have economic value to potential vendors, contractors, and suppliers who may desire to supply components of services being offered by applicant. Additionally, competitors may wish to “cherry pick” and based on this information decide to target certain parts of the various applicant’s service territories where the revenue potential is the greatest. Competitors could use such information against applicant’s interest in the course of submitting proposals as well as in developing their own business plans.

3. Any Explanation of why the information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons.

The confidentiality of the information has been maintained by the applicant. The Information is not disclosed to the public or to person other than employees or authorized agents who need to know the information to fulfill their responsibilities in connection with the project or to third persons pursuant to agreement to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

4. A general description of the persons or entities that would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information.

Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, potential equipment and material vendors, contractors and other suppliers of telecommunications services would obtain economic

value from disclosure of the costs, demand, minutes-of-use, and other confidential information.

5. A specific description of known competitors and competitors' goods and services that is pertinent to the tariff or rate filing.

Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, potential equipment and material vendors, contractors and other suppliers of telecommunications services would obtain economic value from disclosure of the demand, minutes-of-use, and other confidential information.

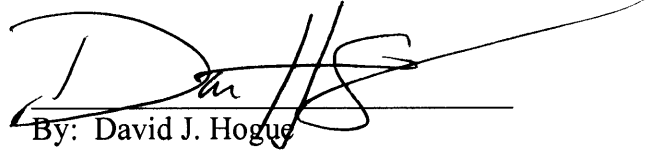
6. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information.

The confidentiality of the information has been maintained by the applicant. The information is not disclosed to the public or to persons other than employees or authorized agents of applicant who need to know the information to fulfill their responsibilities in connection with the project or third persons pursuant to agreement to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

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: ATTACHMENT 1: TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE.

Respectfully submitted on July 9, 2012.

Pringle & Herigstad, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hogue', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends to the right of the line.

By: David J. Hogue
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