



Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company LLC
19100 Ridgewood Parkway
San Antonio, Texas 78259

June 29, 2012

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JUL 02 2012

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Re: Application for Trade Secret Protection

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01, Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company LLC (THPP) hereby files this Application for Trade Secret Protection. The information for which THPP seeks protection is contained in its Ten-Year Plan, which it is filing with the Commission concurrently with this Application. As outlined in the Application, certain information contained in THPP's Ten-Year Plan is trade secret information as defined by NDCC § 47-25.1-01. Accordingly, THPP respectfully requests that the Commission accord certain portions of the Ten-Year Plan trade secret protection.

Enclosed with this transmittal letter are an original and seven (7) copies of the public version of THPP's Application. We have also enclosed one copy of the Ten-Year Plan containing the confidential information for which we are applying for protection.

We appreciate the Commission's review of Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company LLC's Application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions.

Respectfully,

Barron W. Dowling
Associate General Counsel
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**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company LLC) Case No. PU-12-

**APPLICATION OF TESORO HIGH PLAINS PIPELINE COMPANY LLC FOR
TRADE SECRET PROTECTION**

Pursuant to Chapter 69-02-09-01 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company LLC (THPP) hereby files this Application for Trade Secret Protection. In support of this Application, THPP states as follows:

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

The information that Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company LLC seeks to protect is confidential information contained in its Ten-Year Plan related to THPP's proprietary operations, including: (i) the pipeline's maximum operating pressure, (ii) capacity information of pump stations, and (iii) plans regarding the future expansion of the THPP pipeline system and new operations that THPP has not publicly disclosed.

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

The information described above is proprietary information that, if disclosed to the public generally, could adversely affect THPP. In particular, the information referred to in Item No. 1 above could give an undue economic advantage to THPP's competitors in the oil transportation industry since it would allow them to make business decisions with inside information. It could also provide information that competitors could use to frustrate new projects that are still in the planning stage.

3. An explanation of why the information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons.

The information that is the subject of this Application has always been maintained as

confidential by THPP. It has not been disclosed to the public or to persons other than employees or authorized agents of THPP who need to know the information to fulfill their responsibilities in connection with the operation of THPP.

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

Other utilities that refine, ship or transport crude petroleum products through the North Dakota pipeline systems as well as potential competitors for the incremental crude oil that THPP hopes to attract to its pipeline would obtain economic value from the disclosure of this information.

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

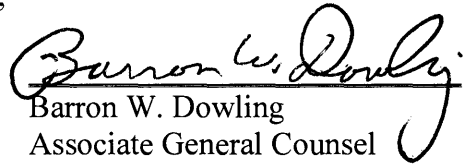
See response to Item No. 4.

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

THPP has ensured that all of the individuals involved in the planning and implementation of the confidential projects mentioned in the most recent Ten-Year Plan are obligated to maintain the confidentiality of this material.

In accordance with Section 69-02-09 of the North Dakota Administrative Code one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope, which is labeled **TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE**.

Respectfully,



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