

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**APPLICATION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER
AND TRADE SECRET PROTECTION
OF Nexus Communications, Inc.**



In Re: Case No. PU-13-098

Nexus Communications, Inc. ("Nexus") hereby moves the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the "Commission") for an Order under Chapter 69-02-09 and section 69-02-09-04 of the North Dakota Administrative Code granting Trade Secret Protection to certain of the materials filed by Nexus in compliance with the July 15, 2013 letter of Sara Cardwell, NDPSC Public Utility Analyst.

1. Description. The information sought to be designated Trade Secret relates to Nexus' responses and attachments to questions formulated by the NDPSC during a work session in the captioned matter. The responses and attachments that Nexus provides relate to the business practices of Nexus that are confidential, a USAC audit which itself contains confidential information, and confidential subscriber data. In general, the information so designated for each applicant company consists of:

2. Explanation of independent economic value. The information designated by Nexus has value to Nexus because it contains information about Nexus subscribers, Nexus' business strategies, and Nexus' business practices. The information produced by Nexus is maintained as proprietary information and is not shared with the public or competitors except in a more general sense. The level of detail involved would easily allow competitors to use the information to compete unfairly against Nexus.

3. Information not readily ascertainable. The information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons because it contains a description of matters which is only reviewed and known by the highest management level personnel and includes descriptions of business strategy, USAC compliance, and whether Nexus is the subject of any specific audit or investigation.

4. Description of persons or entities that would obtain economic value from disclosure. As the NDPSC is aware, at least four "Lifeline-only" eligible telecommunications carriers have applied for designation in the state of North Dakota in the past two years. These carriers compete against one another and the other designated ETCs that offer the telephony services required for designation as an ETC.

5. Description of known competitors. A specific description of the known competitors and competitors' goods and services that are pertinent to this filing include, but are not limited to:

- a) AT&T;
- b) Verizon;
- c) Midcontinent Communications;
- d) Century Link;
- e) SRT Communications, Inc.;
- f) Missouri Valley Communications, Inc.;
- g) Northwest Communications Cooperative, Inc.;
- h) Polar Communications, Inc.;
- i) North Dakota Telephone Company;
- j) Consolidated Telephone Company;

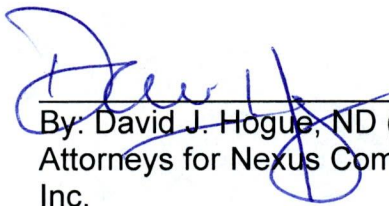
- k) BEK Communications, Inc.;
- l) Griggs County Telephone Co.;
- m) Dakota Central Telephone Co;

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

Nexus safeguards its proprietary information in every state it conducts operations.

Dated at Minot, North Dakota, this 15 day of August, 2013.

PRINGLE & HERGISTAD, P.C.



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