



Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

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1 November 2013

Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
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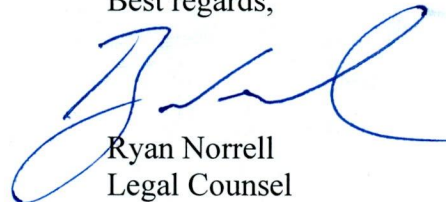
Re: Griggs County Telephone Co.
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application
Case No. PU-13-329

Griggs County Telephone Co.
Local Exchange
Public Convenience & Necessity
Case No. PU-13-330

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed for filing is the Staff Response to Request for Trade Secret Protection in the captioned two cases along with a Certificate of Service and 5 copies.

Best regards,



Ryan Norrell
Legal Counsel

enclosures
c/w enclosures: Tyler Kilde

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Griggs County Telephone Co.
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application**

Case No. PU-13-329

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STAFF RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

On 11 June 2013, Griggs County Telephone Company (Griggs) filed an application for trade secret protection in the captioned two cases, under North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 69-02-09, asking the Commission to protect against public disclosure certain information filed in support of Griggs' application for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier in the Enderlin and Sheldon exchanges.

North Dakota Administrative Code § 69-02-09-04 requires that the Commission staff examine the information and application and make a recommendation to the Commission. Staff has reviewed the request of Griggs for protection of information.

Griggs asked that the Commission protect from disclosure financial information pertaining to the monetary resources of the company.

North Dakota Century Code § 44-04-18.4(2) authorizes protection for commercial, financial, proprietary, and trade secret information if privileged and if the information has not been previously publically disclosed. N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(1). Commercial and financial information can be protected from disclosure if the information has not been previously disclosed and disclosure would impair the Commission's ability to obtain similar information in the future or would cause competitive injury to the person

providing the information. N.D.C.C. §§ 44-04-18.4(2)(a) and 44-04-18.4(2)(b). Proprietary and trade secret information can be protected when the information derives independent economic value from not being generally known to or readily ascertainable by other persons, and is the subject of reasonable efforts to maintain its secrecy. N.D.C.C. §§ 44-04-18.4(2)(c) and 44-04-18.4(2)(d).

Staff believes that the application of Griggs satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of the information which is the subject of this request. The Commission's process provides a means for interested parties to review protected documents upon signing a nondisclosure agreement.

For reasons set forth above, Staff recommends that the Commission grant the application of Griggs County Telephone Company to protect certain filed information in this case.

Dated this 1ST day of Nov 2013.



Ryan Norrell
Legal Counsel
North Dakota Public Service Commission

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Griggs County Telephone Co.
Designated Eligible Carrier
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing **STAFF RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION** was, on the First day of November 2013, served on the following by regular mail:

Tyler Kilde
Griggs County Telephone Company
905 Lenham Ave. SE
Cooperstown, ND 58425

Dated this 1st day of November 2013.



Ryan Norrell
Legal Counsel
North Dakota Public Service Commission