

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**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

ORDER GRANTING TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

August 20, 2014

On June 11, 2013, Griggs County Telephone Company (Griggs) filed an application for trade secret protection in the two captioned cases, under North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 69-02-09, asking the Public Service Commission (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.

On November 1, 2013, Staff filed Staff Response to Griggs' Request for Trade Secret Protection.

Griggs asked 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).

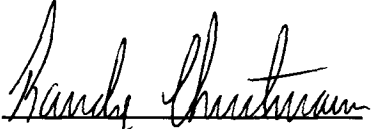
North Dakota Administrative Code § 69-02-09-04 requires that the Commission staff examine the information and application and make a recommendation to the Commission. Staff believes that the application of Griggs satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century code for protection of the information 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.

Order

The Commission orders Griggs County Telephone Company's application for trade secret protection granted.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



**Randy Christmann
Commissioner**



**Brian P. Kalk
Chairman**



**Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner**