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October 15, 2013



Darrel Nitschke
Executive Director
ND Public Service Commission
Capitol
600 E. Boulevard, Twelfth Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Midcontinent Communications FCC Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

In a separate cover letter, the original and seven copies of Midcontinent's FCC Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting along with Exhibits B, C, and D were provided. Enclosed with this letter please find separately bound and placed in a sealed envelope labeled "TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE," one copy of the Confidential Exhibit A referenced in the document.

Also enclosed please find an original and seven copies of an Application Requesting Trade Secret Protection pursuant to N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-02-09.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

PEARCE & DURICK

ZACHARY E. PELHAM

Counsel to Midcontinent Communications

ZEP/ak
Enclosures

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Public Service Commission)
FCC Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting)

Case No.

AN APPLICATION REQUESTING TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Midcontinent Communications (“Midcontinent”) requests the North Dakota Public Service Commission, pursuant to Chapter 69-02-09 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, to issue a protective order limiting the disclosure of trade secret information provided by Midcontinent which was required as part of the FCC Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting filed with the North Dakota Public Service Commission, October 15, 2013.

The trade secret information has been appropriately marked and is submitted in a sealed envelope with this filing.

1. General Description of the Nature of the Information Sought to be Protected.

The information sought to be protected are documents with the following heading:

Exhibit A. Plant Specific Operating Expenses for 2013 ETC certification.

2. An Explanation of Why the Information Derives Independent Economic Value, Actual or Potential, From Not Being Generally Known to Other Persons.

This document discloses budget, revenue, and costs information for Midcontinent. This information is confidential and propriety to Midcontinent and is not publicly disclosed by Midcontinent. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive and its public disclosure would place the Company at a competitive

disadvantage. If disclosed publicly, the information would disadvantage Midcontinent as the information reflects specifics regarding the Company's business activities.

3. An Explanation of Why the Information is Not Readily Available by Proper Means to Other Parties.

The information at issue is propriety to Midcontinent is available only to those employees and representatives of Midcontinent who have a need to know the information to perform their duties and responsibilities. Midcontinent does not disclose this information outside the company except pursuant to the terms of strict agreements or orders to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

4. The General Description of the Persons or Entities that Would Obtain Economic Value from Disclosure or Use of the Information.

Competitors or potential competitors of Midcontinent would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information.

5. Specific Description of Known Competitors or Competitor's Goods and Services that are Pertinent to the Information.

Competitors and potential competitors of Midcontinent in North Dakota includes Qwest Corporation, Consolidated Telecom, Dakota Central Telecom I, Missouri Valley Communications, North Dakota Telephone Company, Turtle Mountain Communications, United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation, AT&T, Sprint Corporation, and any other provider of telecommunications services in North Dakota or any of the other states in which Midcontinent operates.

6. Description of the Efforts Used to Maintain the Secrecy of the Information.


See No. 3 above.

Dated this 15th day of October, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

PEARCE & DURICK

BY:



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