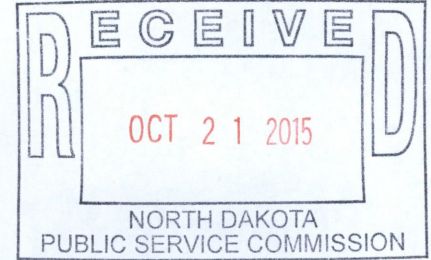


**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of MONTANA-DAKOTA)
UTILITIES CO., a Division of MDU)
Resources Group, Inc. Cost of Gas) Case No. PU-15-8
Updates Filed Pursuant to Rate 88)
)



APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group In., (Montana-Dakota) respectfully requests that the Commission issue a trade secret protective order under N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-04 and N.D. Cent. Code §44-04-18.4(1 & 2) . The purpose of the requested protective order is to protect against public disclosure of trade secrets as defined by N.D. Cent. Code § 47-25.1-01(4) .

I.

The information for which the Company seeks trade secret protection is a portion of the Cost of Gas filing that contains confidential information on gas commodity pricing.

The confidential information, as designated, contains confidential pricing information relating to Montana-Dakota's natural gas purchase practices in a competitive environment and should not be disclosed or released to the public and that, if the information were released, competitors would be able to benefit from the information to the detriment of the Company and its customers. The confidential information is considered trade secret, as it provides an economic advantage in its gas contract negotiations.

II.


The above-referenced information is not publicly available and is confidential business information prepared specifically for Montana-Dakota. Vendors and competitors would have an opportunity to obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information, to the detriment of Montana-Dakota. If publicly available,

vendors could use the information to their advantage in contract negotiations, while competitors could use the information to leverage their positions in the marketplace to Montana-Dakota's detriment.

In accordance with N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-02, one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope labeled TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE. As requested, an electronic file has also been provided.

Dated this 21st day of October 2015.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

By: 

Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

