

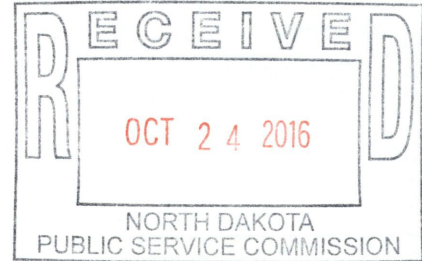


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October 21, 2016

ND Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismark, ND 58505-0480



Re: Venture Communications Cooperative, Inc,

Dear Commission,

Enclosed please find a signed Application for Trade Secret Protection in the Matter of Venture Communications Cooperative, Inc., Federal Filings.

Thank you

Sincerely yours,

RITER, ROGERS, WATTIER, &  
NORTHTRUP, LLP

By: *Margo D. Northrup*  
Margo D. Northrup *by JW*

MDN/aee

Enclosures

10 PU-15-62 Filed: 10/24/2016 Pages: 4  
Application for Protection of Information

Venture Communications Cooperative  
Margo Northrup, Riter Rogers Law Office

Robert C. Riter, Jr  
Margo D. Northrup

Darla Pollman Rogers  
Lindsey Riter-Rapp

Jerry L. Wattier  
Robert D. Hofer, Of Counsel

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of VENTURE )  
COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC. )  
FEDERAL FILINGS )

Case No. PU-15-62

APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Pursuant to N.D. Admin Code §69-02-09-01, Venture Communications Cooperative, Inc., (“Venture”) 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 filings made in 2015 that contains confidential information on its telecommunications services.

The following components are identified as confidential:

- FCC 47CFR §54.304 CAF ICC Annual Support Data- redacted
- Form 481 – Copy of FCC 47CFR §54.313 Annual Report- redacted
- Copy of FCC 47 CFR §54.313(h) Local Rate Floor Data & Collection-redacted
- ND Admin Code §69-09-05-12.1 Annual Report - redacted

The information contains confidential pricing information relating to Venture’s telecommunications 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 Venture and its customers. The confidential

information is considered a trade secret. Venture requests an Order protecting the information herein.

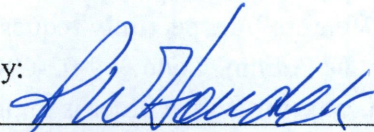
II.

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

Dated this 19 day of October, 2016

VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.

By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Houdek", written over a horizontal line.

Randy Houdek  
General Manager

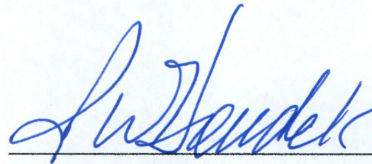
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )

: ss

COUNTY OF HYDE )

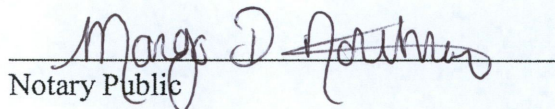
Randy Houdek, being first duly sworn, deposes and says; that he is the General Manager for Venture Communications Cooperative, Inc., the Applicant herein; that he has read the foregoing Petition, knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this 19 day of October, 2016.



Randy Houdek

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19 day of October, 2016.



Notary Public

**Margo D. Northrup**  
**My Commission Expires**  
**November 5, 2021**