

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Qwest Corporation**  
**Switched Access**  
**Price Schedule**

**Case No. PU-15-219**

**ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION**

**May 1, 2019**

On May 22, 2015, Qwest Corporation (Qwest) filed an application for protection of information pursuant to North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-02-09-01 requesting a protective order limiting disclosure of "Trade Secret" information.

Qwest's filing contains an ICC Model, comprising of knowledge, data and facts collected and recorded by Qwest to satisfy mandatory regulatory reporting requirement, which is competitively sensitive. All of the confidential information being submitted is viewed as highly proprietary by Qwest and is closely guarded to maintain its confidentiality. The data at the level of detail being submitted by Qwest are closely guarded by all carriers offering access services, and if Qwest's confidential information became available to its competitors, they could use such data to target certain areas of Qwest's services and customers to their unfair competitive advantage.

The information for which Qwest seeks trade secret protection contains confidential and proprietary information regarding an ICC Model, comprising of knowledge, data and facts collected and recorded by Qwest to satisfy mandatory regulatory reporting requirements, which is competitively sensitive. This information derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure. Release of this information to competitors would unfairly enable them to make strategic and tactical decisions that would be harmful to the success and profitability of Qwest.

The information at issue is proprietary to Qwest and is available only to those employees and representatives who have a need to know the information to perform their duties and responsibilities. Qwest also has agreements in place protecting the confidentiality of this information.

Competitors or potential competitors of CenturyLink that provide local exchange service and other telecommunications service would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information.

Competitors and potential competitors of Qwest in North Dakota include AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc., McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc.,

MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC, Sprint Communications Company L.P., and Midcontinent Communications and any other provider of telecommunications services in North Dakota or any of the other states in which Qwest operates.

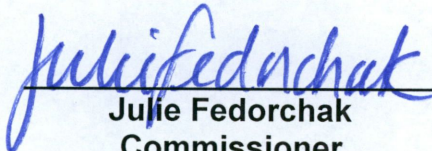
North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-02-09-03 requires that the Commission staff examine the information and application and make a recommendation to the Commission. On March 29, 2019, Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommended the commission grant protection of the information.


Having reviewed the Company's application and Commission Staff's recommendation, the Commission has determined that the information satisfies the requirements of North Dakota Century Code for protection of information.

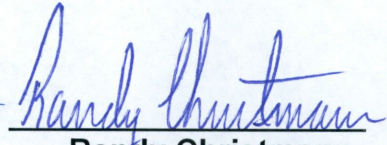
**ORDER**

The Commission Orders the May 22, 2015 application of Qwest Corporation for Protection of Information is GRANTED.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

  
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**Julie Fedorchak**  
Commissioner

  
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**Brian Kroshus**  
Chairman

  
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**Randy Christmann**  
Commissioner