

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Midstate Communications/North Dakota Tel. Co
Local Exchange
Public Convenience & Necessity**

Case No. PU-15-615

**Midstate Communications/North Dakota Tel. Co.
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application**

Case No. PU-15-616

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED AND REGULAR MAIL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

Geralyn R. Schmaltz deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **18th** day of **December, 2015**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, **one** envelope with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and containing a photocopy of:

Order Granting Protection of Information

The envelope was addressed as follows:

John Kuykendall, Vice - President
JSI
7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
Cert. No. 7015 0640 0006 6433 2090

Geralyn R. Schmaltz further deposes and says that on the **18th** day of **December, 2015**, she deposited in the United States Mail, Bismarck, North Dakota, **two** envelopes by regular mail, with postage fully prepaid, securely sealed, each containing a photocopy of the same.

The envelopes were addressed as follows:

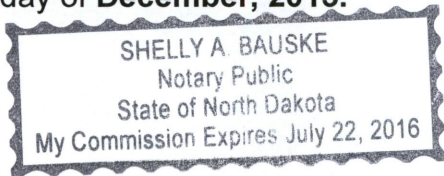
Dave Dirks CEO/General Manager
North Dakota Telephone Company
211 22nd Street NW
PO Box 180
Devils Lake, ND 58301-0180

Ryan Wilhelmi Manager
Midstate Communications
PO Box 400
Stanley, ND 58784

The address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office address.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 18th day of **December, 2015.**

SEAL



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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shelly A. Bauske", written over a horizontal line.
Notary Public

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Midstate Communications / North Dakota Telephone Co.
Local Exchange
Public Convenience & necessity**

Case No. PU-15-615

**Midstate Communications / North Dakota Telephone Co.
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application**

Case No. PU-15-616

ORDER GRANTING PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

December 16, 2015

On 31 July 2015, North Dakota Telephone Company ("NDTC" or "Company") filed an application for Trade Secret Protection under North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 69-02-09 for protection against public disclosure of trade secret information as defined by North Dakota Century Code Section 47-25.1-01(4).

The Company seeks to protect proprietary financial information contained in Attachment 8 of the Joint Application of North Dakota Telephone Company and Midstate Communications for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation. Company states that the financial information is highly sensitive and could have economic value to potential competitors. Company further states that public disclosure could place NDTC at a competitive disadvantage in a competitive telecommunications marketplace. The confidentiality of the financial information has been maintained by the Company and is not readily available by proper means to competitors or to the general public.

The Company states that Competitive Local Exchange Carriers could use the financial information against NDTC's interests. NDTC states that the information is not disclosed to the public or to persons, other than employees or authorized agents of the Company who need to know the information to fulfill their responsibilities, or to third persons pursuant to an agreement to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-02-09-03 requires that the Commission Staff examine the information and applications and make a recommendation to the Commission.

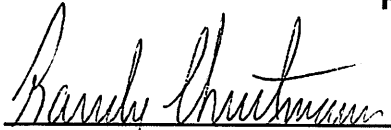
Staff filed its response on November 24, 2015, agreeing that NDTC's application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of the information which is the subject of this request. The Commission's process provides a means for interested parties to review protected documents upon signing a nondisclosure agreement.

The Commission concludes North Dakota Telephone Company's application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of the information which is the subject of this request.


Order

The Commission orders the 31 July 2015 application of North Dakota Telephone Company for protection of information GRANTED.


PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Randy Christmann
Commissioner



Julie Fedorchak
Chairman



Brian P. Kalk
Commissioner