

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

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APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

COMES NOW, North Dakota Telephone Company ("NDTC" or "the Company") and respectfully moves the Commission for entry of a trade secret protective order under § 69-02-09-01 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. The purpose of the requested protective order is to protect against public disclosure of trade secret information as defined by NDCC § 47-25.1-01.

1. A general description of the nature of the information sought to be protected.

NDTC wishes to protect from disclosure financial information contained in the Financial Statement (Attachment 8 in its entirety).

2. Explanation of why the information derives independent economic value,

The financial information could have economic value to potential competitors, and in a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive and its public disclosure could place NDTC at a competitive disadvantage.

3. An explanation of why the information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons.

The confidentiality of financial information has been maintained by the Company and is not readily available by proper means to competitors or to the general public.

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4. A general description of the persons or entities that would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information.

Competitive Local Exchange Carriers could use the disclosure of financial information against NDTC's interests.

5. A specific description of known competitors and competitors' goods and services that is pertinent to the tariff or rate filing.

Not Applicable.

6. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information.

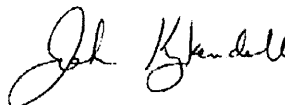
NDTC's financial information is not disclosed to the public or to persons other than employees or authorized agents of the Company who need to know the information to fulfill their responsibilities or to third persons pursuant to agreement to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

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In accordance with § 69-02-09-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope which is labeled: ATTACHMENT 8-TRADE SECRET — PRIVATE.

Respectfully submitted on July 31, 2015.

JOHN STAURULAKIS, INC.

By: 

John Kuykendall
Vice President

On behalf of

NORTH DAKOTA TELEPHONE COMPANY