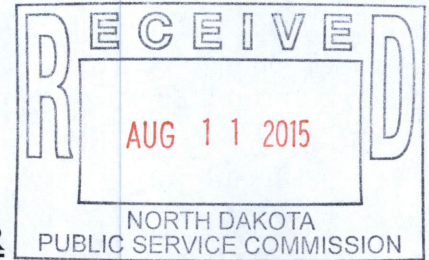


STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



**APPLICATION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER
AND TRADE-SECRET PROTECTION OF
JAMES VALLEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY**

James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company ("JVT") hereby moves the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the "Commission") for an Order under Chapter 69-02-09 and Section 69-02-09-04 of the North Dakota Administrative Code granting Trade-Secret Protection to certain of the materials filed by JVT in compliance with North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-09-05-12(3) and Section 69-09-05-12.1 in order to file their annual 2015 Essential Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") reports.

1. Description. The information which JVT has designated as Confidential is contained in a separate envelope, marked "TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE."

In general, the information so designated consists of:

- a. A description of Service Improvement Plans;
- b. A summary of the Expenditures in the prior calendar year;
- c. An estimate of the Universal Service Support to be received in the upcoming calendar year and the planned capital expenditures;
- d. A description of improvements and upgrades; and
- e. An outage report.

2. The information so designated by JVT derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other persons because the information is maintained as proprietary information and is not shared with the public or

competitors, except in a more general sense. The level of detail involved would easily allow competitors to determine the level of support and the cost of service to study areas and exchanges in JVT's service areas.

3. The information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons, because it contains a description of matters which is only reviewed and known by the highest management level personnel, and includes descriptions of capital spending plans and improvements in detail not available to those outside the management group.

4. A general description of those persons or entities that could obtain economic value from the disclosure or use of the information are competitor or potential competitors which include wireless providers, cable television providers, competitive local exchange carriers, internet providers, dish networks, and other local exchange carriers.

5. A specific description of the known competitors and competitors' goods and services that are pertinent to this filing are:

- a. AT&T/Alltel and Verizon: cellular, CMRS and data plans;
- b. Midcontinent Communications: video, internet and telecommunications; and
- c. Qwest/CenturyLink: voice, data and video services.

In addition to these providers, there is a multitude of competing technologies and providers on a national scale, such as Vonage, Happy Jack, and other providers of internet and voice-over-the-internet provider ("VoIP") services.

6. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information includes assuring that access to the information is restricted to the employees and management-level persons who have a need to know the information and, it is not disclosed to persons outside the company, except under strict circumstances.

Dated this ____ day of August, 2015.

PAGEL WEIKUM, PLLP
1715 Burnt Boat Drive
Madison Suite
Bismarck, ND 58503
mcremer@pagelweikum.com

By: 

Matthew J. Cremer
ND Lic. No.: 07879

Attorneys for James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company