

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU
Resources
Cost of Gas 2016
Tariff Monthly Adjustments**

Case No. PU-16-8

ORDER ON TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

MARCH 23, 2016

On December 8, 2015, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources (Montana-Dakota or Company), filed an application for trade secret protection pursuant to North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-02-09-01 requesting a protective order limiting disclosure of "Trade Secret" information as defined by North Dakota Century Code Section 47-25.1-01(4).

The information for which the Company seeks protection is a portion of the monthly Cost of Gas filings that contains confidential information on gas commodity pricing including demand charge monthly delivery quantities, demand charge amounts excluding FT-1 MDDQ, commodity charge monthly delivery quantities excluding the gas commodity – system quantity, the commodity charge quantities, the fuel transportation rates of WBI, NB and NW as well as fuel storage rates and the gas commodity system rate. The Company will mark these sections as "Trade Secret" in each monthly filing.

North Dakota Century Code Section 44-04-18.4(1) authorizes protection of commercial and financial information if the information is privileged; the information has not been previously publicly disclosed; and disclosure would cause competitive injury to the person providing the information or impair the Commission from obtaining

necessary information in the future. N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(2)(a)-(b). Commission Staff has reviewed the request and believes that the application satisfies the requirements which allow the Commission to grant trade secret protection in this proceeding.

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. In accordance with N.D. Admin. Code Section 69-02-09-02, one copy of the trade secret material will be provided monthly in a sealed envelope labeled TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE. The Commission's process provides a means for interested parties to review the protected documents upon signing a nondisclosure agreement.

ORDER

The Commission Orders:

1. The Commission orders the December 8, 2015 application of Montana-Dakota for trade secret protection of information is GRANTED.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Randy Christmann
Commissioner



Julie Fedorchak
Chairman



Brian P. Kalk
Commissioner