

Pearce Durick PLLC

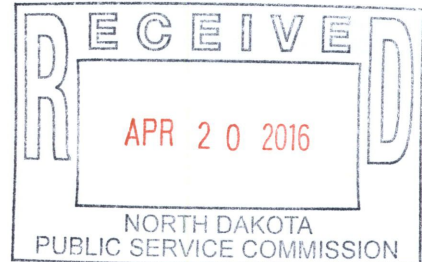
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April 20, 2016



Hand Delivered

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Director
ND Public Service Commission
Capitol
600 East Boulevard, 12th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Midcontinent Communications Petition
PU-16-48

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

In a separate cover letter, the original and seven copies of a Letter dated April 18, 2016, from Mary Lohnes at Midcontinent, Midcontinent's Response to North Dakota Public Service Commission's Request, and Midcontinent Communications' Certification Relating to Order Provisions were provided. Enclosed with this letter please find separately bound and placed in a sealed envelope labeled "TRADE SECRETE – PRIVATE," one copy of the Confidential Response to question 3 referenced in Midcontinent's Response.

Also enclosed please find an original and seven copies of an Application Requesting Trade Secret Protection pursuant to N.D.A.C. Ch. 69-02-09.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

PEARCE DURICK PLLC


ZACHARY E. PELHAM

ZEP/ak
Enclosures

10 PU-16-48 Filed: 4/20/2016 Pages: 4
Application Requesting Trade Secret Protection

Midcontinent Communications

Zachary Pelham, Pearce Durick, PLLC

Midcontinent and is not publicly disclosed by Midcontinent. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive and its public disclosure would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage. If disclosed publicly, the information would disadvantage Midcontinent as the information reflects specifics regarding the Company's business activities.

3. An Explanation of Why the Information is Not Readily Available by Proper Means to Other Parties.

The information at issue is propriety to Midcontinent is available only to those employees and representatives of Midcontinent who have a need to know the information to perform their duties and responsibilities. Midcontinent does not disclose this information outside the company except pursuant to the terms of strict agreements or orders to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

4. The General Description of the Persons or Entities that Would Obtain Economic Value from Disclosure or Use of the Information.

Competitors or potential competitors of Midcontinent would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information.

5. Specific Description of Known Competitors or Competitor's Goods and Services that are Pertinent to the Information.

Competitors and potential competitors of Midcontinent in North Dakota includes Qwest Corporation, Consolidated Telecom, Dakota Central Telecom I, Missouri Valley Communications, North Dakota Telephone Company, Turtle Mountain Communications, United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation, AT&T, Sprint Corporation, and any other provider of telecommunications services in North Dakota or any of the other states in which Midcontinent operates.

6. Description of the Efforts Used to Maintain the Secrecy of the Information.

See No. 3 above.

Dated this 20th day of April, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

PEARCE DURICK PLLC

BY: 

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*Individually and as Members of the Firm
Attorneys for Midcontinent Communications*

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