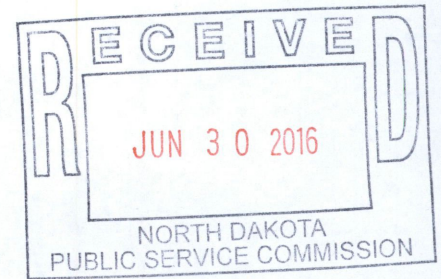




June 30, 2016

Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480



Re: **Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Application for Trade Secret Protection**  
**FCC Form 481 filed pursuant to 47 CFR 54.313 and 47 CFR 54.422 – SAC 482247**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Nemont) is submitting this Application to request that the financial, outages and unfulfilled service request information contained in our FCC Form 481 be treated as confidential. This information has been filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) subject to a Protective Order, issued by the FCC on November 16, 2012.

Information claimed confidential includes detailed financial, outages and unfulfilled service request information that is competitively sensitive data not normally made available to the public. Public disclosure of such information would likely cause substantial harm to the financial position of Nemont. Competitors, such as other telecommunication providers including CLEC's and wireless companies, can gain an unfair economic advantage if financial information is not kept confidential. This sensitive information is only made available to the Board of Directors, the Federal Communications Commission and state Commission.

Nemont is a privately held Rate of Return carrier and reports information to a board of directors. The FCC has allowed privately held Rate of Return carriers to submit their filings to the FCC confidentially and Nemont respectfully requests that the same information provided to the FCC be treated in the same manner with the Commission.

Other telecommunications carriers such as wireless, long distance, cable companies and other Local Exchange Carriers should not be granted access to this filing.

The FCC has granted a blanket Protective Order for the filing of confidential information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 406-449-3214 or via e-mail at [barrowsconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:barrowsconsulting@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

*Sandra Barrows*

Sandra Barrows  
Regulatory Consultant for  
Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Enclosures

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**Application for Trade Secret Protection**

Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.