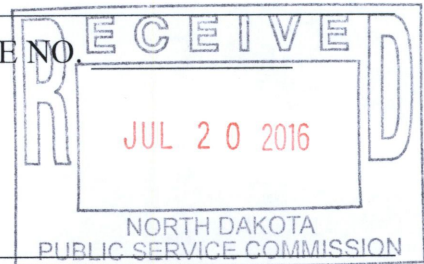


**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

APPLICATION OF JAMES VALLEY
COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY
TO PROTECT TRADE SECRET AND
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IN 2016
FORM 481 ETC REPORT

CASE NO.



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 its 2016 Form 481 Report and other 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 support of its annual 2016 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.

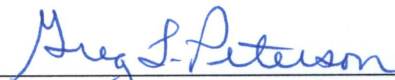
3. The information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons, because it contains a description of matters which is only reviewed and known by the highest management level personnel, and includes descriptions of capital spending plans and improvements in detail not available to those 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 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 20th day of July, 2016.

BANTZ, GOSCH & CREMER, L.L.C.



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