

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**



In the Matter of the Application of )  
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., )  
a Division of MDU Resources Group, ) Case No. PU-16-666  
Inc., for Authority to Establish )  
Increased Rates for Electric Service )

**APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION**

Pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group In., (Montana-Dakota) respectfully requests that the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issue a trade secret protective order under N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-04 and N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(1) and (2). The purpose of the requested protective order is to protect against public disclosure of trade secrets as defined by N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4) .

I.

The Commission Staff served Montana-Dakota with a discovery request in the present case seeking information the Company believes constitutes trade secret information. The Company requests trade secret protection for the following information:

- A) Information Request No. 9.4 requests information related to a confidential report received from an outside source. This is information has independent economic value because it is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons. The confidential information is considered trade secret, as it provides an economic advantage to others.
  
- B) Information Request No. 9.26 requests information information related to confidential reports received from outside sources. This is information has independent economic value because it is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons. The confidential information is considered trade secret, as it provides an economic advantage to others.

C) Information Request No. 9.27 requests information information related to confidential reports received from outside sources. This is information has independent economic value because it is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons. The confidential information is considered trade secret, as it provides an economic advantage to others.

II.

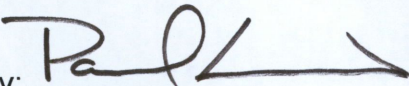
Montana-Dakota requests an Order protecting the information necessary to respond to Informaion Request Nos. 9.4, 9.26 and 9.27 included herein and subsequent submittals of similar nature.

III.

In accordance with N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-02, one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope labeled TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017.

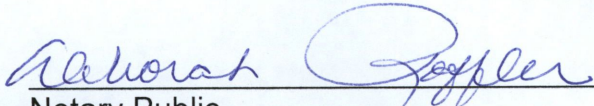
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.  
A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Sanderson



  
Brenda Vitek

Subscribed and sworn to before me, today, March 28, 2017.

  
Notary Public

DEBORAH ROFFLER  
Notary Public  
State of North Dakota  
My Commission Expires November 18, 2018