

**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-17-295
Inc., for Authority to Establish)
Increased Rates for Natural Gas)
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, Inc., (Montana-Dakota or Company) 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. 5.5 requests information related to the MDU Resources Group, Inc. utility group Operating Plan and 5-Year Financial Forecast. These materials contain forward looking financial projections of income, including estimated sales, rate base and cash flows. MDU Resources Group, Inc. does not publicly disclose the utility group's Operating Plan or 5-Year Financial Forecast information.

- B) Pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(1) "...financial information is confidential if it is of a privileged nature and has not been previously publicly disclosed." As referenced above, the Operating Plan and 5-Year Financial Forecast is confidential, of a privileged nature, and has not been previously publicly

disclosed. The requested information is "financial information" as defined by N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(2). If the requested financial information were to be released publicly, it would cause substantial competitive injury to Montana-Dakota and MDU Resources Group, Inc. by providing a significant economic advantage to others. The requested information further constitutes material non-public information that has not been publicly disclosed and could be used to trade in the Company's stock.

II.

Montana-Dakota requests an Order protecting the information necessary to respond to Information Request No. 5.5 included herein and subsequent submittals of similar nature.

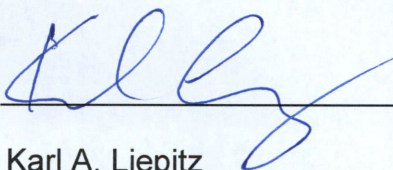
III.

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

Dated this 14th day of November 2017.

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

By: _____


Karl A. Liepitz
Assistant General Counsel
& Assistant Secretary
MDU Resources Group, Inc.