

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

**Inter-Community Tel. / Absaraka Cooperative  
Local Exchange  
Public Convenience & Necessity**

**Case No. PU-19-224**

**STAFF RESPONSE TO APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF INFORMATION**

July 1, 2019, Inter-Community Telephone Company, L.L.C. and Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company, Inc. (together, the Company) filed an application for a protective order under North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-02-09 for protecting against public disclosure protected information as defined by North Dakota Century Code Section 47-25.1-01(4).

The information for which the Company seeks protection includes recent financial statements of the Company.

North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-02-09-03 requires that the Commission staff examine the information and application and make a recommendation to the Commission.

Staff believes that the application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of information, and that the financial statements derive independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

For reasons set forth above, Staff recommends that the Commission grant the application of the Company to protect certain information filed in this case.

Dated this 4th day of November, 2019.



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Brian Johnson  
Staff Attorney  
North Dakota Public Service Commission