

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Midcontinent Communications
2020 High-Cost Universal Service Support
Annual Report

Case No. PU-20-57

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

Geralyn R. Schmaltz deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **20th day of April 2022**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, **one** envelope with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and containing a photocopy of:

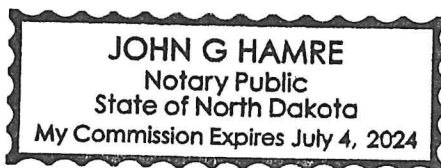
- **Order on Protection of Information**

The envelope was addressed as follows:

Zachary Pelham
Counsel to Midcontinent Communications
Pearce Durick PLLC
PO Box 400
Bismarck, ND 58502
Cert. No. 7021 2720 0001 0491 9133

The addresses shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office address.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this **20th day of April 2022**.



SEAL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geralyn R. Schmaltz", written over a horizontal line.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John G. Hamre", written over a horizontal line.

Notary Public

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Midcontinent Communications
2020 High-Cost Universal Service Support
Annual Report

Case No. PU-20-57

ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

APRIL 13, 2022

On June 30, 2020, Midcontinent Communications (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 requested to be considered trade secret/confidential is Plant Specific Operations Expenses, Plant Specific Capital Expenditures, and Outages and Customer Complaints, filed with the North Dakota Public Service Commission ("Commission"). North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-02-09-03 requires that Commission staff examine the information and application and make a recommendation to the Commission.

The information provided by the company is also provided to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and is treated as confidential by the FCC. The Commission has previously treated information that is provided to the FCC and treated by the FCC as confidential information as protected information and cites to PU-07-595. Staff recommended information in that case acknowledged the North Dakota Attorney General has interpreted that N.D.C.C. §44-04-18(1) regarding protected information allows a state agency to provide confidentiality to protection of information if the

information is specifically protected under federal regulation. Additionally, North Dakota Administrative Rules (N.D.A.R.) 69-02-09-13(5) state that financial information required by the FCC be copied to the Commission, accompanied by the filing of a copy of the FCC's protective order for that information.

Additionally, under N.D.C.C. 44-04-18.4(2)(d) the information which the company is requesting protection for qualifies as "trade secret" as it is information that is compiled that would derive independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons that can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain the secrecy of the information.

The application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of information, and the information requested to be protected derives 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.

Order

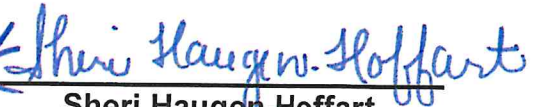
The Commission orders:

1. The specified information be withheld from public disclosure and the Public Service Commission website.
2. That availability to the specified information be limited to the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission, counsel, and Staff assigned to the captioned case.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Randy Christmann
Commissioner


Julie Fedorchak
Chair


Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner