

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Public Service Commission
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Mandan to Ellendale Transmission System Upgrade Project
Exclusion and Avoidance Areas Evaluation Report

Case No. PU-20-342

APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co (Montana-Dakota) respectfully requests that the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) 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.

Montana-Dakota has filed requesting Siting Exclusion Certification for the Mandan to Ellendale Transmission System Upgrade Project. Pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 49-22-03(3)(a)(2), Montana-Dakota has contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to provide a report identifying activities that affect any known exclusion or avoidance areas. SWCA's report contains confidential cultural resource location information that is integral to performing the analyses and results presented in the Report but is not intended for public dissemination.

II.

Montana-Dakota requests an Order protecting any known cultural resource location information included herein and subsequent submittals of similar nature.

III.

In accordance with N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-02, Montana-Dakota has electronically submitted one copy of the trade secret Report via a secure connection labeled PROTECTED INFORMATION – PRIVATE in lieu of a physical copy due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dated this 1st day of December 2020.

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

By: *Isl Travis R. Jacobson*

Travis R. Jacobson