

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support
Annual Report**

Case No. PU-22-35

ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

February 22, 2023

Preliminary Statement

On June 3, 2022, Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative filed an Application for Protection of Information to protect certain information in the captioned case.

On January 3, 2023, Staff reviewed the request of Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative for protection of information.

Discussion

The information which the Company requests be considered trade secret/confidential is the Intrastate TRP report, which displays the proposed intrastate tariff at the rate element level, the post true-up Access Recovery Charge Output report, which has the residential ARC revenue and lines at the exchange level, as well as the post true-up ARC rates and revenue for SLB and MLB, and the post true-up CAF ICC amount on the USAC report, 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.

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.

Staff believes that the application satisfies the requirements of the law, which allows the Commission to grant protection of information in this proceeding.

The Commission concludes Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative's application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of the information, which is the subject of this request.

Order

The Commission orders the June 3, 2022, application of Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative, for protection of information is GRANTED.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Sheri Haugen-Hoffart

Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner

Randy Christmann

Randy Christmann
Chair

Julie Fedorchak

Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner