

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

**Red River Rural Telephone Association  
2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support  
Annual Report**

**Case No. PU-22-40**

**ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION**

**February 22, 2023**

Preliminary Statement

On July 27, 2022, Red River Rural Telephone Association filed an Application for Protection of Information to protect certain information in the captioned case.

On January 3, 2023, Staff reviewed the request of Red River Rural Telephone Association for protection of information.

Discussion

The information which the Company requests be considered trade secret/confidential is a description and the amount of high-cost universal service support received by the company in 2021 and how that support is projected to be used, an estimate of the amount of federal high-cost universal support the company anticipates receiving in 2023 and how that support is projected to be used, detailed information regarding telecommunications infrastructure projects completed in 2021 and those forecasted in 2021, and detailed outage information for outages over 30 mins in 2018, 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 Red River Rural Telephone Association'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 July 27, 2022, application of Red River Rural Telephone Association, for protection of information is GRANTED.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
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Sheri Haugen-Hoffart  
Commissioner

  
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Randy Christmann  
Chair

  
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Julie Fedorchak  
Commissioner