

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Midcontinent Communications
2022 High-Cost Universal Services Support
Annual Report

Case No. PU-22-41

STAFF RESPONSE TO APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

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 which the Company requests be considered trade secret/confidential is Operations Expenses and Capital Expenditures filed with the North Dakota Public Service Commission ("Commission") 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.

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.

Staff believes that the application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of information, and that 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.

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 3rd day of January 2023.



Brian Johnson
Special Assistant Attorney General Bar ID 07397
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept. 408
Bismarck ND, 58505
701-328-2407