

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Midcontinent Communications
2022 High Cost Universal Service Support
Annual Report

Case No. PU-22-41

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 **24th day of February 2023**, 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:

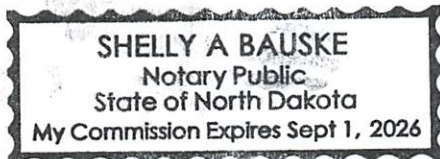
- **Order on Protection of Information**

The envelope was addressed as follows:

Zachary Pelham
Pearce & Durick PLLC
PO Box 400
Bismarck, ND 58502-0400
Cert. No. 7021 2720 0000 4438 6903

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

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this **24th day of February 2023**.



Notary Public

SEAL

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ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

February 22, 2023

Preliminary Statement

On July 1, 2022, Midcontinent Communications filed an Application for Protection of Information to protect certain information in the captioned case.

On January 3, 2023, Staff reviewed the request of Midcontinent Communications for protection of information.

Discussion

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 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 law, which allows the Commission to grant protection of information in this proceeding.

The Commission concludes Midcontinent Communication'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 1, 2022, application of Midcontinent Communications, for protection of information is GRANTED.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner



Randy Christmann
Chair



Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner