

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

**Qwest Corporation**  
**2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support**  
**Annual Report**

**Case No. PU-22-66**

**ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION**

**February 22, 2023**

Preliminary Statement

On July 29, 2022, Qwest Corporation filed an Application for Protection of Information to protect certain information in the captioned case.

On January 3, 2023, Staff reviewed the request of Qwest Corporation for protection of information.

Discussion

The information which the Company requests be considered trade secret/confidential is the detailed outage information, which is competitively sensitive, 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 Qwest Corporation'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 29, 2022, application of Qwest Corporation, 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