

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Qwest Corporation  
2022 High Cost Universal Service Support  
Annual Report

Case No. PU-22-66

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:

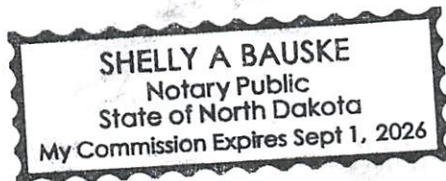
- **Order on Protection of Information**

The envelope was addressed as follows:

Andrew Schriener  
State Legislative Affairs Director  
CenturyLink  
200 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
**Cert. No. 7021 2720 0000 4438 6934**

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**.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geralyn R. Schmaltz", written over a horizontal line.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shelly A. Bauske", written over a horizontal line.

Notary Public

SEAL

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

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**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