

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

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**APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION**

COMES NOW, Northwest Communications Cooperative, Inc. (“NCC” or “the Company”) and respectfully moves the Commission for entry of a trade secret protective order under section 69-02-09-01 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. The purpose of the requested protective order is to protect against public disclosure of trade secret information as defined by section 47-25.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code.

**1. A general description of the nature of the information sought to be protected.**

NCC wishes to protect from the disclosure of financial information contained in the Financial Statement (Attachment 7 in its entirety).

**2. Explanation of why the information derives independent economic value.**

The financial information could have economic value to potential competitors. This type of information in a competitive telecommunications marketplace is highly sensitive, and its public disclosure could place NCC at an unfair competitive disadvantage.

**3. An explanation of why the information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons.**

The Company maintains the confidentiality of its financial information and does not make it readily available by proper means to competitors or the general public.

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**4. A general description of the persons or entities that would obtain economic value from the disclosure or use of the information.**

If disclosed, Competitive Local Exchange Carriers could use the financial information against NCC's interests.

**5. A specific description of known competitors and competitors' goods and services that is pertinent to the tariff or rate filing.**

Not Applicable.

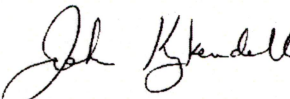
**6. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information.**

NCC's financial information is not disclosed to the public or to persons other than employees or authorized agents of the Company who need to know the information to fulfill their responsibilities or to third persons pursuant to an agreement to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

In accordance with section 69-02-09-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, NCC provides one copy of the trade secret material in the enclosed sealed envelope labeled: ATTACHMENT 7-TRADE SECRET — PRIVATE.

Respectfully submitted on November 15, 2022.

JOHN STAURULAKIS, INC.

By:   
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John Kuykendall  
Regulatory Advisor

On behalf of

NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.