

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northwest Communications / Midstate Telephone Company
Portal Exchange
Public Convenience & Necessity

Case No. PU-22-408

Northwest Communications / Midstate Telephone Company
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application

Case No. PU-22-409

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY REGULAR 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 **30th day of May 2023**, she deposited in the United States Mail at Bismarck, North Dakota, **one** envelope by first class mail, fully prepaid, securely sealed each containing a photocopy of:

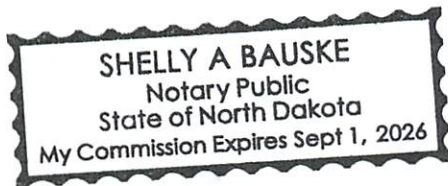
- **Staff Response to Application for Protection of Information**

The envelope was addressed as follows:

John Kuykendall
Regulatory Advisor
JSI
7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, MD 20770

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

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this **30th day of May 2023**.



Notary Public

SEAL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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STAFF RESPONSE TO APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

MAY 25, 2023

On November 15, 2022, Northwest Communications Cooperative (Northwest) filed an Application for Protection of Information to protect certain information in the captioned two cases.

Northwest's application for protection of information regards financial information contained in their financial statement specifically all of attachment 7.

While Northwest does not reference North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) financial information is defined and is can be granted protection under N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(2)(b) which states:

"Financial information" means information pertaining to monetary resources of a person that has not been previously publicly disclosed and that if the information were to be disclosed would impair the public entity's future ability to obtain necessary information or would cause substantial competitive injury to the person from which the information was obtained.

Northwest states that the financial information they seek protection for has not been publicly disclosed and has maintained its confidentiality. Northwest further states that if this information is not granted protection it would harm their business and create a competitive disadvantage by competing Competitive Local Exchange Carriers.

Staff has reviewed the application of Northwest Communications/Midstate Telephone Co.'s application for protection of information and believes it meets the requirements for protection of information and recommends the commission grant Northwest Communications/Midstate Telephone Co's Applications for Protection of Information in the above captioned cases.

Dated this 25th day of May 2023.



Brian Johnson
Special Assistant Attorney General Bar ID 07397
North Dakota Public Service Commission
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Bismarck ND, 58505
701-328-2407