

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Northwest Communications / Midstate Telephone Co.
Portal Exchange
Public Convenience & Necessity**

Case No. PU-22-408

**Northwest Communications / Midstate Telephone Co.
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application**

Case No. PU-22-409

ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

AUGUST 16, 2023

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

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

Staff reviewed and Issued a Staff Response to the Application for protection of information.

DISCUSSION

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 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.

For reasons set forth above, Staff recommends that the Commission grant the application of Northwest Communications Cooperative to protect certain information filed in the captioned case.

Order

The Commission orders:

The application for protection of information submitted by Northwest Communications Cooperative is granted.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner



Randy Christmann
Chair



Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner