



UTILITIES CO.

A Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

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701-222-7900
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October 11, 2024

Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E Boulevard Ave, Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Authority to Increase Rates
for Natural Gas Service
Case No. PU-23-341
OAH File No. 20230372**

Pursuant to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) requests during the September 30, 2024, Formal Hearing for Case No. PU-23-341 Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) herewith electronically submits its Application for Trade Secret Protection, including a waiver of N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01(5), for confidential treatment of certain information being provided in Case No. PU-23-341.

Confidential MDU-023 – Customer Survey Questions is being provided in accordance with N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-02, one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope labeled PROTECTED INFORMATION – PRIVATE.

Please contact Travis Jacobson at 701.222.7855 or travis.jacobson@mdu.com with any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/ Travis R. Jacobson

Director of Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

cc: Service List

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Application of)	
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. for)	Case No. PU-23-341
Authority to Increased Rates for Natural)	OAH File No. 20230372
Gas Service)	

APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) respectfully requests that the Commission issue a protective order under N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-04 and N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(1). The purpose of the requested protective order is to protect against public disclosure of confidential proprietary and trade secret information, as defined by N.D.C.C § 44-04-18.4(2)(c)(5) and N.D.C.C § 44-04-18.4(2)(d). Montana-Dakota also requests a waiver of N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01(5) which requires a redated public version. The entire Customer Survey is the proprietary information of JD Power and it is not possible to file a redacted public version.

I.

Montana-Dakota requests an Order protecting the following information regarding the following item:

- JD Power – Confidential MDU-023 Customer Survey Questions

The Public Service Commission requests during the September 30, 2024, Formal Hearing for Case No. PU-23-341 seeking information the Company believes constitutes confidential proprietary and trade secret information. The Company requests protection for the JD Power U.S. Gas Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study, as it requests information received by Montana-Dakota from an independent third-party, which owns

and controls the information. This information has independent economic value because it is not readily available in the public domain and cannot be ascertained by proper means by other persons. The confidential information is considered trade secret by JD Power.

II.

The above-referenced information is not publicly available and is confidential business information prepared by JD Power specifically for Montana-Dakota. Furthermore, Montana-Dakota does not have permission to provide publicly.

III.

In accordance with N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-02, one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope labeled “PROTECTED INFORMATION – PRIVATE”.

Dated this 11th day of October 2024.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.

/s/ Travis R. Jacobson

Travis R. Jacobson
Director of Regulatory Affairs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by electronic mail delivery on the 11th of October 2024 to the following:

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