

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Public Service Commission	)	Case No.
Local Competition investigation	)	

APPLICATION REQUESTING TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Midcontinent Communications (“Midcontinent”) requests the North Dakota Public Service Commission, pursuant to Chapter 69-02-09 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, to issue a protective order limiting the disclosure of trade secret information provided by Midcontinent which was required as part of the annual certification of its use of Federal Universal Support.

The trade secret information has been appropriately marked and is submitted in a sealed envelope with this filing.

1. General Description of the Nature of the Information Sought to be Protected.

The information sought to be protected are documents with the following heading:

Exhibit A. Operation Expenses

Exhibit B Capital Expenditures

2. An Explanation of Why the Information Derives Independent Economic Value, Actual or Potential, From Not Being Generally Known to Other Persons.

These documents disclose budget and revenue costs for Midcontinent. This information is confidential and propriety to Midcontinent and is not publicly disclosed by Midcontinent. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive and its public disclosure would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage. If disclosed publicly,

the information would disadvantage Midcontinent as the information reflects specifics regarding the Company's business activities.

3. An Explanation of Why the Information is Not Readily Available by Proper Means to Other Parties.

The information at issue is propriety to Midcontinent is available only to those employees and representatives of Midcontinent who have a need to know the information to perform their duties and responsibilities. Midcontinent does not disclose this information outside the company except pursuant to the terms of strict agreements or orders to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

4. The General Description of the Persons or Entities that Would Obtain Economic Value from Disclosure or Use of the Information.

Competitors or potential competitors of Midcontinent would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information.

5. Specific Description of Known Competitors or Competitor's Goods and Services that are Pertinent to the Information.

Competitors and potential competitors of Midcontinent in North Dakota includes CenturyLink, Consolidated Telecom, Dakota Central Telecom I, Missouri Valley Communications, North Dakota Telephone Company, Turtle Mountain Communications, United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation, and AT&T, and any other provider of telecommunications services in North Dakota or any of the other states in which Midcontinent operates.

6. Description of the Efforts Used to Maintain the Secrecy of the Information.

See No. 3 above.

Dated this 30th day of June, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

PEARCE DURICK PLLC

BY:



ZACHARY E. PELHAM, ND#05904

zep@pearce-durick.com

314 E. Thayer Avenue

P.O. Box 400

Bismarck, ND 58502-0400

(701) 223-2890

*Individually and as a Member of the Firm
Attorneys for Midcontinent Communications*