

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

In the Matter of the Application of South Dakota)
Network, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to)
Provide Competitive Local Exchange Service) TC10-
In Qwest Corporation Service Areas.)

REQUEST FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

This request is made in conjunction with the South Dakota Network, LLC (“SDN”) filing of its application for a certificate of authority to provide local exchange services in Qwest Corporation service territory in South Dakota. As a part of that application SDN submits its latest audited financials as required by Commission Rules as Confidential Exhibit C, which is attached to this request.

SDN makes this request of trade secret protection for the following reasons:

1. SDN is a privately held company and as such it is not required by law to make its financial documents available to the public.
2. A trade secret is defined in SDCL § 37-29-1 as information that derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value for its disclosure or use.
3. SDN provides its services in a very competitive environment. Competitors would gain significant insight into the operation of SDN’s business by having access to the annual financial statement contained in Confidential Exhibit C. The financial picture presented is protected as proprietary and confidential, kept secured in SDN’s offices and is not accessible to persons that have no legitimate need to know.

Accordingly, SDN respectfully requests that the Commission afford Confidential Exhibit C in this application trade secret protection.

Submitted this 26th day of March, 2010



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