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Service Date: August 20, 2002

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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| IN THE MATTER OF CLARK FORK TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., Request for Protective Order, Annual Report Schedules 23 and 24 | ) ) ) ) | UTILITY DIVISION<br><br>DOCKET NO. N2002.7.86<br>ORDER NO. 6437 |

ANNUAL REPORT GENERIC PROTECTIVE ORDER

On July 8, 2002, Clark Fork Telecommunications, Inc. (CFT), filed before the Public Service Commission (PSC) a request for protective order governing access to CFT's PSC annual report schedules 23 (central office and access line statistics) and 24 (central office and switch information). CFT argues the information is trade secret (is maintained as secret and has economic value in being so maintained) and subject to protection from uncontrolled disclosure. On July 26, 2002, the PSC issued a public notice of CFT's request. No comments or objections were received.

The PSC determines that the identified information, except schedule column totals reported to the Federal Communications Commission, if any, could be confidential and subject to protection from public disclosure pursuant to § 69-3-105, MCA. Therefore, the PSC grants CFT's request and hereby orders that information submitted in accordance with this order be treated as "confidential information" under the terms of this order and PSC protective order rules, ARM 38.2.5001 through 38.2.5030. This generic annual report protective order is effective for a period of 4 years, at which time CFT may apply for an extension.

Done and dated this 6th day of August, 2002, by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GARY FELAND, Chairman

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: There is no reconsideration of the granting of a protective order. There is a procedure to challenge the provider's claim of confidentiality. See ARM 38.2.5008.