

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. RPU-2014-0002
--	--------------------------

**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY
FILED DECEMBER 9, 2014**

(Issued December 12, 2014)

On December 9, 2014, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for confidential treatment of certain information filed on December 9, 2014, in response to the Board’s December 2, 2014, “Order Requiring Additional Information and Partial Suspension of Procedural Schedule.” The information for which confidential treatment is sought includes cost and related revenue information for the proposed wind project, known as Wind IX, as well as certain cost information for a prior wind project, known as Wind XIII. MidAmerican supported the request for confidentiality with an affidavit by a corporate officer. The material for which confidentiality was requested was filed separately and marked confidential. MidAmerican cited Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 22.7(6) (2013) as authority for confidential treatment of the data.

MidAmerican claims the information is a report to a governmental agency that, if released, would give advantage to competitors and serve no public purpose and, therefore, should be held confidential pursuant to Iowa Code § 22.7(6).

MidAmerican states disclosure of the information would harm MidAmerican's negotiating leverage because potential vendors could calculate the cost components for the projects with the cost and revenue data. MidAmerican also said the information would allow competitors to accurately estimate the costs of power and energy sold in the wholesale markets.

The information in question qualifies as a report to a government agency. Based on the affidavit submitted by MidAmerican, release of such information serves no public purpose. Therefore, the Board will hold the information confidential pursuant to Iowa Code § 22.7(6).

The filed information may also be confidential as a trade secret pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 550.2(4). However, because the Board finds the information should be held confidential under Iowa Code § 22.7(6), the Board does not reach the question of whether the information is a trade secret or a communication not required by law.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The request for confidentiality filed by MidAmerican Energy Company on December 9, 2014, is granted.

2. The information shall be held confidential by the Board subject to the provisions of 199 IAC 1.9(8)"b"(3).

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

ATTEST:

/s/ Joan Conrad
Executive Secretary

/s/ Sheila K. Tipton

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 12th day of December 2014.