

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. RPU-2009-0003
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**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY
FILED FEBRUARY 14, 2012**

(Issued February 20, 2012)

On February 14, 2012, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for confidential treatment of portions of its Wind VII Iowa project update. A revised filing was made the same day to comply with the Board's rules regarding highlighting or otherwise distinguishing confidential information. 199 IAC 14.12. The information for which confidential treatment is sought includes cost information pertaining to the project and critical energy infrastructure information. MidAmerican supported the request for confidentiality with an affidavit by a corporate officer. The material for which confidentiality was requested was filed separately. MidAmerican cited Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 22.7(6) (2011) 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 § 22.7(6). MidAmerican states disclosure of the information would allow a potential vendor to calculate or estimate the cost cap for Wind VII and therefore harm MidAmerican's negotiating leverage, resulting in higher cost wind generation for MidAmerican's customers. MidAmerican

further states release of critical energy infrastructure information could provide useful information to those who desire to do harm to the nation's energy infrastructure.

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 § 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 February 14, 2012, 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

/s/ Darrell Hanson

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper /s/ Swati A. Dandekar
Executive Secretary, Deputy

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 20th day of February 2012.