

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NOS. RPU-2013-0003 RPU-2014-0002
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**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY
FILED SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**

(Issued September 17, 2015)

On September 1, 2015, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for confidential treatment of certain information contained in MidAmerican's semi-annual status update regarding its Wind VIII and Wind IX projects, filed on September 1, 2015. The information for which confidential treatment is sought includes certain cost information for the two projects. 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) (2015) 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 said the release of the information would harm its ability to obtain competitively priced power in the wholesale market and hurt its negotiating leverage for future wind projects, to the detriment of MidAmerican's retail customers.

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 September 1, 2015, 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/ Geri D. Huser

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

ATTEST:

/s/ Trisha M. Quijano
Executive Secretary, Designee

/s/ Nick Wagner

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 17th day of September 2015.