BEFORE THE

GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PUBLIC SERVICE'S STATEMENT FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Public Service Telephone Company ("Public Service") hereby files this Statement for Trade Secret Protection for Public Service's Cost Study Data, including all associated work papers pursuant to Section 515-3-1-.11 of the Rules of the Georgia Public Service Commission ("PSC"), and states as follows:

1. Rule 515-3-1-.11 requires that a party claiming that information constitutes a trade secret provide, in writing, that basis of this claim. Rule 515-3-1-.11(c) specifically requires that this statement detail (1) the economic benefit derived from the information not being generally known; (2) the economic benefit to others if disclosure were to occur and (3) the procedures utilized to maintain confidentiality. This statement is submitted pursuant to those requirements. Public Service is submitting this statement in accordance with the Commission's rules requiring submission of cost studies stating expenses and revenues associated with the Universal Access Fund High Cost Applications. The expenses and revenues and other financial information included in these studies are trade secret.

2. The subject trade secret material is the expense and revenue data derived from the conducting cost studies.

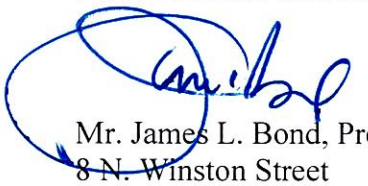
3. The release of this expense and revenue information would disadvantage Public Service by providing its competitors an unfair competitive advantage by disclosing data regarding Public Service's customers and finances that is not generally known and would not be readily ascertainable to third parties by any proper means. Public

Service takes all appropriate and legal measures to ensure that such information is disseminated internally only to those with a need to know, and that all public measures are taken to protect the information when it is required to be filed in a public forum.

4. Release of Public Service's proprietary financial information to the general public would provide Public Service's competitors an unfair advantage in a competitive market.

This 23 day of February 2026.

PUBLIC SERVICE TELEPHONE COMPANY



Mr. James L. Bond, President
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