By the Commission:

On November 26, 2019, Oneida Network Services, Inc. (“Petitioner”) filed a verified Petition requesting that the Illinois Commerce Commission (“Commission”) enter an Order protecting Petitioner’s 2019 Annual Report from public disclosure for a period of not less than two years.

Petitioner is certified by the Commission to provide competitive telecommunications services in Illinois, and is required to file an Annual Report pursuant to Section 5-109 of the Public Utilities Act (“Act”). 220 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq. The Petition indicates that Petitioner’s 2019 Annual Report contains commercial and financial information that is proprietary and confidential, the disclosure of which to competitors could be detrimental to Petitioner. The Petition further indicates that because the telecommunications industry is highly competitive, it is imperative that public disclosure of confidential information contained in the Petitioner’s 2019 Annual Report be avoided for a period of at least two years following issuance of an Order by the Commission, due to the competitive harm such disclosure would likely cause Petitioner.

Since all facts necessary for the Commission to grant the requested relief are contained in the Petition, no hearing is necessary.

The Commission, having considered the entire record herein and being fully advised in the premises, is of the opinion and finds that:

(1) Petitioner, Oneida Network Services, Inc., is a telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 13-202 of the Act and provides competitive telecommunications service as defined in Section 13-209 of the Act;

(2) the Commission has jurisdiction over Petitioner and the subject matter herein;

(3) the recitals of fact set forth in the prefatory portion of this Order are supported by the Petition and are hereby adopted as findings of fact;
(4) Section 5-109 of the Act states, in relevant part:

All reports made to the Commission by any public utility and the contents thereof shall be open to public inspection, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission;

(5) Section 7(1)(g) of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.) ("Illinois FOIA") exempts from disclosure:

Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person or business where the trade secrets or commercial or financial information are furnished under a claim that they are proprietary, privileged or confidential, and that disclosure of the trade secrets or commercial or financial information would cause competitive harm to the person or business, and only insofar as the claim directly applies to the records requested;

(6) the information contained in Petitioner’s 2019 Annual Report falls within the exemption stated in Finding (5);

(7) Petitioner’s 2019 Annual Report should be exempt from public disclosure under Section 7(1)(g) of the Illinois FOIA and Section 5-109 of the Act for a period of two years from the date of this Order; and

(8) if Petitioner has not yet filed its Annual Report, Petitioner should file with the Chief Clerk’s office both a proprietary version of the 2019 Annual Report and a redacted public version of the 2019 Annual Report along with a cover letter indicating that proprietary treatment was granted in this Docket and identifying the date on which this Order was entered. Only the specific information deemed proprietary should be redacted from the public version.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Illinois Commerce Commission that the 2019 Annual Report filed by Oneida Network Services, Inc. is afforded proprietary treatment and is exempt from public disclosure and will be accessible only by the Commission and the Commission Staff for a period of two years from the date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if Oneida Network Services, Inc. has not yet filed its Annual Report, both a proprietary version of the 2019 Annual Report and a redacted public version of the 2019 Annual Report shall be filed with the Chief Clerk’s office along with a cover letter indicating that proprietary treatment was granted in this Docket and identifying the date on which this Order was entered.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Illinois Commerce Commission retains jurisdiction over Oneida Network Services, Inc. and the subject matter hereof for the purpose of issuing such further Orders as it may deem necessary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Section 10-113(a) of the Public Utilities Act and 83 Ill. Adm. Code 200.880, any application for rehearing shall be filed within 30 days after service of the Order on the party.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that subject to the provisions of Section 10-113 of the Public Utilities Act and 83 Ill. Adm. Code 200.880, this Order is final; it is not subject to the Administrative Review Law.

By Order of the Commission this 8th day of January, 2020.

(SIGNED) CARRIE ZALEWSKI

Chairman