



The complaint recites that, upon making further inquiries, Ms. Hrobat received, by e-mail dated February 11, 2000 from NOL, and later by fax dated February 16, 2000 from Integrated Network Systems, a copy of what purports to be a 60-month contract for DS-1 service between Ameritech and PRP, signed by Ms. Hrobat on behalf of PRP. Both the e-mailed and the faxed copies of the contract, which were included among the exhibits to the complaint, purport to include what the complainant alleges is a forged signature of Ms. Hrobat. Both also purport to identify "Kevin Flanagan" as the name of the involved Ameritech sales representative and to identify Mr. Flanagan's company as "Integrated Network Concepts". However, only the latter copy (i.e., faxed from Integrated Network Concepts) purports to bear a signature of Kevin Flanagan, in the space labeled "Authorized Ameritech Signature".

The complainant claims that it has no responsibility for Ameritech charges that result from a forged contract. The complaint prays that the Commission investigate the actions of the three respondents in this matter and take appropriate action.

- (2) On April 12, 2000, Ameritech filed its answer to the complaint, setting forth several affirmative defenses. In its answer, Ameritech admits that it installed certain telecommunications services at the complainant's premises, but alleges it did so pursuant to a validly executed contract. Ameritech claims it was never paid by the complainant for the services it provided and denies every other allegation of the complaint.
- (3) This case should be set for a prehearing conference on September 26, 2000, at 1:30 p.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The purpose of the settlement conference is to determine whether this matter can be resolved informally. In the event that a settlement is not reached at the conference, the attorney examiner will conduct a discussion of procedural issues at the conclusion of the settlement conference. Procedural issues for discussion may include any discovery dates, possible stipulations of facts, and potential hearing dates.

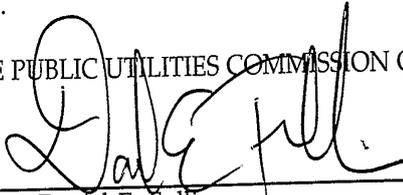
- (4) On April 17, 2000, Ameritech filed a motion requesting that the Commission issue an order requiring the complainant to be represented by a licensed attorney at law. In support of this motion, Ameritech asserts that since the complainant appears to be a corporation, it should be directed to comply with Rule 4901-1-08(A), of the Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) That rule requires corporations to be represented by attorneys-at-law when they appear in legal proceedings before the Commission.
- (5) The purpose of the prehearing settlement conference will be mediation between the parties, rather than to establish an evidentiary record. Accordingly, although it shall in no way be precluded from doing so, at this juncture the complainant need not engage an attorney-at-law to represent its interests at the scheduled prehearing. Rather, the complainant will be permitted, if it chooses to do so, to designate a non-attorney spokesperson to represent its interests at the settlement conference. However, the designated spokesperson must have the authority, at the settlement conference, to enter into a negotiated settlement on behalf of the party on whose behalf it is acting as a spokesperson. Moreover, it will be necessary for the complainant, as a corporation, to engage an attorney-at-law to represent its interests during any subsequent stage of these proceedings.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That, in accordance with the above findings, a prehearing settlement conference be held on September 26, 2000, at 1:30 p.m., at the offices of the Commission. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served upon the complainant; upon Ameritech and its counsel; upon NOL, 781 Beta Drive, Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44143; upon Integrated Network Concepts, 33059 Lake Road, Avon Lake, Ohio 44012, and upon all interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

By:   
Daniel E. Fullin  
Attorney Examiner

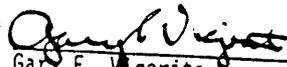
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Entered in the Journal

SEP 11 2000

A True Copy

  
Gary E. Wgorito  
Secretary

CASE NUMBER 00-532-TP-CSS  
CASE DESCRIPTION PUBLIC RELATIONS PARTNERS/AMERITECH  
DOCUMENT SIGNED ON September <sup>11</sup>~~12~~, 2000  
DATE OF SERVICE 9-11-00

PERSONS SERVED

PARTIES OF RECORD

ATTORNEYS

COMPLAINANT

PUBLIC RELATIONS PARTNERS INC.  
DENISE HROBAT  
6100 ROCKSIDE WOODS BLVD, SUITE 350  
INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131

NONE

RESPONDENT

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150 E. GAY STREET ROOM 4-C  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215

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NONE