

Confidential Release

Case Number:
93-487-TP-ALT

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Motion

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the Application)
of The Ohio Bell Telephone Company)
for Approval of an Alternative)
Form of Regulation.)

Case No. 93-487-TP-ALT

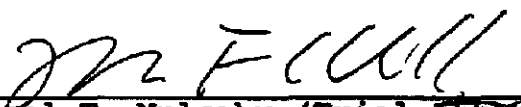
AMERITECH OHIO'S MOTION FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER

Ameritech Ohio, by its attorneys and pursuant to Section 4901-1-24(D) of the Commission's rules (O.A.C. § 4901-1-24(D)) moves for a protective order keeping confidential the designated confidential and/or proprietary information contained in the filing accompanying this motion. The reasons underlying this motion are detailed in the attached Memorandum in Support. Consistent with the requirements of Section 4901-1-24(D) of the Commission's rules, unredacted copies of the confidential information which is the subject of this motion have been filed under seal.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERITECH OHIO

By:


Michael T. Mulcahy (Trial Attorney)
45 Erieview Plaza, Suite 1400
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 822-3437

Jon F. Kelly
150 E. Gay St., Rm. 4-C
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 223-7928

Its Attorneys

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Ameritech Ohio requests that the information designated as confidential and/or proprietary in the accompanying filing (along with any and all copies, including electronic copies) be protected from public disclosure.

Section 4901-1-24(D) of the Commission's rules provides that the Commission or certain designated employees may issue an order which is necessary to protect the confidentiality of information contained in documents filed with the Commission's Docketing Division to the extent that state or federal law prohibits the release of the information and where non-disclosure of the information is not inconsistent with the purposes of Title 49 of the Revised Code. As set forth herein, state law prohibits the release of the information which is the subject of this motion. Moreover, the non-disclosure of the information will not impair the purposes of Title 49. The Commission and its Staff have full access to the information in order to fulfill its statutory obligations. No purpose of Title 49 would be served by the public disclosure of the information.

The need to protect the designated information from public disclosure is clear, and there is compelling legal authority supporting the requested protective order. While the Commission has often expressed its preference for open

proceedings, the Commission also long ago recognized its statutory obligations with regard to trade secrets:

The Commission is of the opinion that the "public records" statute must also be read in pari materia with Section 1333.31, Revised Code ("trade secrets" statute). The latter statute must be interpreted as evincing the recognition, on the part of the General Assembly, of the value of trade secret information.

In re: General Telephone Co., Case No. 81-383-TP-AIR (Entry, February 17, 1982). Likewise, the Commission has facilitated the protection of trade secrets in its rules (O.A.C. § 4901-1-24(A)(7)).

The definition of a "trade secret" is set forth in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act:

"Trade secret" means information, including the whole or any portion or phase of any scientific or technical information, design, process, procedure, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or improvement, or any business information or plans, financial information, or listing of names, addresses, or telephone numbers, that satisfies both of the following:

(1) It derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

(2) It is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

R. C. § 1333.61(D). This definition clearly reflects the state policy favoring the protection of trade secrets such as the information which is the subject of this motion.

Courts of other jurisdictions have held that not only does a public utilities commission have the authority to protect the trade secrets of a public utility, the trade secret statute creates a duty to protect them. New York Tel. Co. v. Pub. Serv. Comm. N.Y., 56 N.Y. 2d 213 (1982). Indeed, for the Commission to do otherwise would be to negate the protections the Ohio General Assembly has granted to all businesses, including public utilities, through the Uniform Trade Secrets Act. This Commission has previously carried out its obligations in this regard in numerous proceedings. See, e.g., Elyria Tel. Co., Case No. 89-965-TP-AEC (Finding and Order, September 21, 1989); Ohio Bell Tel. Co., Case No. 89-718-TP-ATA (Finding and Order, May 31, 1989); Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., Case No. 90-17-GA-GCR (Entry, August 17, 1990).

The Ohio General Assembly recently amended R. C. §§ 4901.12 and 4905.07 in order to facilitate the protection of trade secrets in the Commission's possession. Am. Sub. H. B. 476, effective September 17, 1996. The General Assembly carved out an exception to the general rule in favor of the public disclosure of information in the Commission's possession. By referencing R. C. § 149.43, the Commission-specific statutes now incorporate the provision of that statute that excepts from the definition of "public record" records the release of which is prohibited by state or federal law. R. C. § 149.43(A)(1). In turn, state law prohibits the release of information meeting the

definition of a trade secret. R. C. §§ 1333.61(D) and 1333.62. The amended statutes also reference the purposes of Title 49 of the Revised Code. The protection of trade secret information from public disclosure is consistent with the purposes of Title 49 because the Commission and its Staff have access to the information; in many cases, the parties to a case may have access under an appropriate protective agreement. The protection of trade secret information as requested herein will not impair the Commission's regulatory responsibilities.

In Pyromatics, Inc. v. Petruziello, 7 Ohio App. 3d 131, 134-135 (Cuyahoga County 1983), the Court of Appeals, citing Koch Engineering Co. v. Faulconer, 210 U.S.P.Q. 854, 861 (Kansas 1980), has delineated factors to be considered in recognizing a trade secret:

(1) The extent to which the information is known outside the business, (2) the extent to which it is known to those inside the business, i.e., by the employees, (3) the precautions taken by the holder of the trade secret to guard the secrecy of the information, (4) the savings effected and the value to the holder in having the information as against competitors, (5) the amount of effort or money expended in obtaining and developing the information, and (6) the amount of time and expense it would take for others to acquire and duplicate the information.

For all of the information which is the subject of this motion, Ameritech Ohio considers and has treated the information as a trade secret. In the ordinary course of business of

Ameritech Ohio, this information is stamped confidential, is treated as proprietary and confidential by Ameritech Ohio employees, and is not disclosed to anyone except in a Commission proceeding and/or pursuant to staff data request. During the course of discovery, information of this type information has generally been provided only pursuant to protective agreement.

The Attachment to this Memorandum in Support lists the information which has been redacted from the associated filing and further describes why it should be granted protected status. For the foregoing reasons, Ameritech Ohio requests that the designated information be protected from public disclosure.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERITECH OHIO

By: 

Jon F. Kelly
150 E. Gay St., Room 4-C
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 223-7928

Its Attorney

ATTACHMENT

Information Redacted

Quantities and
Revenues

Reasons

The quantity and revenue information set forth in Exhibit 3 to the price cap filing is competitively sensitive. It identifies quantity and revenue numbers associated with the proposed price reductions for discrete services. The totals have not been redacted so as to permit confirmation of the price cap calculations. Public disclosure of the quantities and revenues for discrete services would impair Ameritech Ohio's ability to respond to competitive opportunities in the marketplace and would reveal the Company's trade secret information to competitors.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Motion for a Protective Order was served upon counsel for the parties as shown on the attached service list, by prepaid first class U. S. mail, this 1st day of May, 1997.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon F. Kelly', written over a horizontal line.

Jon F. Kelly

SERVICE LIST
CASE NO. 93-487-TP-ALT

TIME WARNER AxS

Samuel C. Randazzo
Emens, Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter
65 East State Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215

CABLEVISION LIGHTPATH, INC.
NEW PAR COMPANIES

Sally W. Bloomfield
Mary W. Christensen
Bricker & Eckler
100 South Third Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4291

METAS

Dennis K. Muncy
Meyer, Capel, Hirschfield, Muncy, Jahn
& Aldeen
Athenaeum Building
306 West Church Street, P.O. Box 6750
Champaign, Illinois 61826-6750

AT&T

Robert W. Quinn, Jr.
AT&T
227 West Monroe Street, Suite 1300
Chicago, Illinois 60606

ENHANCED TELEMAGEMENT,
INC.

Gena M. Doyscher
Director, External Affairs
730 2nd Avenue South, Suite 1200
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2467

CITY OF TOLEDO

Kerry Bruce, Utility Rate Coordinator
Department of Public Utilities
City of Toledo
One Government Center, Suite 1520
Toledo, Ohio 43604

CITY OF CLEVELAND

William M. Ondrey Gruber
Chief Assistant Director of Law
City of Cleveland
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 106
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

LITEL/LDDS/MCI/SPRINT

Judith B. Sanders
Barth Royer
Bell, Royer & Sanders Co., L.P.A.
33 South Grant Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3927

GCWRO

Joseph P. Meissner
Director of Urban Development
Cleveland Legal Aid Society
1223 West Sixth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

DOD/FEA

Robert Ganton
Department of the Navy
Office of Judge Advocate General
901 North Stuart Street, Room 400
Arlington, Virginia 22203-1837

BELL COMMUNICATIONS
RESEARCH, INC.

William A. Adams
Arter & Hadden
10 West Broad Street, Suite 2100
Columbus, Ohio 43215

DOE

Karin W. Rilley
John Ware
Office of the Attorney General
30 East Broad Street, 15th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0410

AARP

Bruce J. Weston
169 West Hubbard Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1439

CITY OF COLUMBUS

Gregory J. Dunn, Esq.
Crabbe, Brown, Jones, Potts & Schmidt
500 South Front Street, Suite 1200
Columbus, Ohio 43215

DAS

Daniel A. Malkoff
Jerry Kasai
Office of the Attorney General
30 East Broad Street, 26th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3428

OPCA/ODVN/MENTOR

Randy J. Hart
Hahn, Loeser & Parks
3300 BP American Building
200 Public Square
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Janine Migden
Hahn, Loeser & Parks
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3420

TCG CLEVELAND

Douglas W. Trabaris
Madelon Kuchera
Teleport Communications Group
233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 2100
Chicago, Illinois 60606

LDDS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Frank T. Gardella
LDDS Communications, Inc.
2800 River Road, Suite 490
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

OHIO NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL

Sheldon A. Taft
Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease
52 East Gay Street, P.O. Box 1008
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1008

SPRINT

Martha Jenkins
8140 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, Missouri 64114

MCI

Darrell Townsley
MCI
205 North Michigan Avenue
Suite 3700
Chicago, Illinois 60601

GAIL O. LUNDSTROM

No More Phone Tag
2550 Corporate Exchange Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43231

EDGEMONT NEIGHBORHOOD

COALITION

Ellis Jacobs
333 West First Street, Suite 500
Dayton, Ohio 45402

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF OHIO**

Ann E. Henkener, Assistant Attorney
General, Public Utilities Section
180 East Broad Street, 7th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**OFFICE OF THE CONSUMERS'
COUNSEL**

David C. Bergmann
Assistant Consumers' Counsel
77 South High Street, 15th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0550

OCTVA

William S. Newcomb, Jr.

Stephen M. Howard

Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease

52 East Gay Street, P.O. Box 1008

Columbus, Ohio 43216