BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO FEB 24 PM 2-2387-19-601 In the Matter of the Commission's Investigation into Intrastate Carrier Access: Reform Pursuant to Sub. S.B. 162

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc. ("Armstrong"), by its attorneys and pursuant to Section 4901-1-24(D) of the Commission's rules (O.A.C. § 4901-1-24(D)) move for a protective order keeping confidential the designated confidential and/or proprietary information filed on March 18, 2011. 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, three unredacted copies of the confidential information which is the subject of this motion have been previously filed under seal.

Respectfully submitted,

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Armstrong requests its response to Appendix D attached to the November 3, 2010 Entry in the above-captioned matter be designated as confidential and be protected from public disclosure. The information for which protection is sought includes proprietary information relating to Armstrong's business operations and customers which are properly protected from disclosure. The confidential information consists of information derived from data provided to the Commission Staff in response to data requests included in the November 3, 2010 and February 23, 2011 Entries in this proceeding and filed under seal by Armstrong. Armstrong has asserted that the public release of this information would cause harm to Armstrong and its operations and would compromise its ability to compete with other carriers on an equal basis.

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, the information described above has been represented as confidential and sensitive business information by Armstrong in submitting the date to the Commission. Therefore, Armstrong requests that this data be protected from disclosure.

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)). Armstrong is requesting a protective order and asserts Armstrong's data includes trade secrets.

The Commission has previously granted protective orders in other telecommunications proceedings. <u>See e.g. Elyria Tel. Co.</u>, Case No. 89-965-TP-AEC (Finding and Order, September 21, 1989); <u>Ohio Bell Tel. Co.</u>, Case No. 89-718-TP-ATA (Finding and Order, May 31, 1989); <u>Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.</u>, Case No. 90-17-GA-GCR (Entry, August 17, 1990).

In <u>Pyromatics</u>, <u>Inc. v. Petruziello</u>, 7 Ohio App. 3d 131, 134-135 (Cuyahoga County 1983), the Court of Appeals, citing <u>Koch Engineering Co. v. Faulconer</u>, 210 U.S.P.Q. 854, 861 (Kansas 1980), 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.

Armstrong has treated its data within these confines. Importantly, Armstrong has taken all commercially reasonable measures to protect this data from general disclosure.

For the foregoing reasons, Armstrong requests that the designated information be protected from public disclosure.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing document was served this 24th day of February, 2012 by electronic mail, upon the persons listed below.

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