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BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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PUCO

In the Matter of the Application )  
of Ameritech Ohio for Approval ) Case No. 96-390-TP-AEC  
of a Contract Between Itself and )  
New Par dba Cellular One )

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AMERITECH OHIO'S MOTION TO EXTEND  
PROTECTIVE ORDER

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Ameritech Ohio, by its attorneys and pursuant to Section 4901-1-24(F) of the Commission's rules, Ohio Admin. Code § 4901-1-24(F), moves to extend the protective order in this case. Ameritech Ohio's original motion for a protective order was filed, along with the redacted version of the subject contract, on April 22, 1996. This motion is being filed at least forty-five days in advance of the expiration of the existing protective order. As was the case when the contract was initially filed, the prices, the term of the contract, and the customer locations is information which Ameritech Ohio considers to be, and has treated as, trade secret information. The need for continued protection of this information from disclosure is as stated in Ameritech Ohio's memorandum in support of its original motion, which is incorporated herein by reference.

In addition, the Ohio General Assembly amended R. C. §§ 4901.12 and 4905.07 after the original motion was filed in this case in order to facilitate the protection of trade secrets in the Commission's possession. In 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

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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.

For the foregoing reasons, Ameritech Ohio requests that designated information be protected from public disclosure indefinitely.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERITECH OHIO

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