

Piedmont, American Airlines Investigated

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is investigating possible anti-competitive implications of an alleged relationship between American Airlines and Piedmont Airlines, officials of the two airlines said yesterday.

Amy Brown, a spokesman for the Justice Department's antitrust division, would not identify the carriers under investigation.

"We do have an investigation into marketing arrangements involving certain airlines in the Dallas-Fort Worth area," she said.

But spokesmen for American and Piedmont acknowledged in telephone interviews that their companies have come under the department's scrutiny.

Don McGuire, a Piedmont spokesman at the company's Winston-Salem headquarters, acknowledged that the investigation exists and said that it "has been going on for some time."

The probe evidently involves a purported arrangement between the two carriers in which American supplied,

or helped Piedmont obtain, gate space at the large Dallas-Fort Worth airport, in exchange for a commitment by Piedmont not to fly certain routes in the Southwest, an industry official said.

"We have cooperated fully with the investigation," McGuire said. "We don't see, or feel, that there has been any wrongdoing on the part of our people with respect to American Airlines."