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District of New Jersey

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amtrak Supervisor Admits Overbilling Fraud

NEWARK, N.J. – A former Amtrak supervisor today admitted fraudulently overbilling Amtrak overtime and regular hours that he claimed to be working when he was actually not present at Amtrak work sites, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Richard Vogel, 64, of Edison, New Jersey, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph A. Dickson in Newark federal court to an information charging him with converting to his own use federal government funds.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Vogel, who had been employed by Amtrak since January 1977 until he retired in July 2016, supervised approximately 35 employees in work gangs on the Construction Signals side of the Communications and Signals Department, New York Division. Between November 2015 and June 2016, Vogel fraudulently billed Amtrak for 41 regular hours and 685.75 overtime hours when he was not actually present at Amtrak work sites, resulting in a loss to Amtrak of more than \$71,000.

The count to which Vogel pleaded guilty carries a maximum potential penalty of one year in prison and fines of up to \$250,000, or twice the gain or loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greater. Sentencing is scheduled for May 22, 2017. The plea agreement requires Vogel to make full restitution for losses related to his conduct in the amount of \$71,946.

U.S. Attorney Fishman credited Amtrak's Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, Philadelphia office, with the investigation leading to today's guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mala Ahuja Harker of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division.

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Topic:

Public Corruption

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