

**TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)**

Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Place: Ottawa, Ontario

Chair: Peter Hill,
Director, Spectrum Management Operations

Participants:

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC):

Earle Smith VE6NM, President
Ed Frazer VE7EF, Director, BC and Yukon
Brian Nilsson VE6RNR – Director, Alberta, NWT and Nunavut
Richard Ferch VE3IAY, Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs
Joe Parkinson VE3JG, Vice-President, Industrial Liaison
Daniel Lamoureux VE2KA, Vice-President, International Affairs
Jim Dean VE3IQ, Special Advisor for WRC-2007

Industry Canada (IC):

Peter Hill, Director, Spectrum Management Operations
J-C Brien, Director, EMC and Consultation
Rene Guerrette, Director, Eastern Ontario District, (Amateur Radio Service Centre)
Paul Lajoie, Spectrum Management Operations – Acting Manager
Gary Steckly, Technical Policy Analyst, Spectrum Management Operations

ITEMS

1. Welcome and Introductions

Peter Hill welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was followed by introductions by all participants.

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with minor corrections (CPC rather than IPC).

3. Acceptance of the Meeting Minutes of CARAB 25

The Minutes were accepted as submitted.

4 Action Item review (carried over from CARAB 23)

1 - RAC will provide a link to a digital copy of the brochure for inclusion on the IC Web page.

This has been completed and the link is in place on Strategis

5. BPL (Jean Claude Brien) 13:00

Comments to Gazette Notice SMSE-005-05: Consultation Paper on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Communication Systems have been posted on the web.

There has been a surprising lack of response from Canadian manufacturers. This may be indicative of a misunderstanding. The UTC (United Telecom Council) had the largest input, indicating that BPL could be interesting from the perspective of grid management.

IC has been following the situation in the US, where there has been some deployment. There does not seem to be any great push domestically.

Jean-Claude Brien indicated that the current focus internally is on the next step of the BPL process, which involve the drafting of two ICES documents, which will focus on the systems and the equipment .

Joe Parkinson enquired as to interference protection. Industry Canada indicated that they have not yet come up with a detailed policy in response to the consultation, although this type of need would be addressed in the ICES documents.

Joe urged IC to move forward in the area of potential band restrictions to protect areas of the spectrum. IC responded that part VI of the Radiocommunication Regulations, section 50 provides considerable latitude to address any interference cases. (see 21:50)

Jean-Claude Brien spoke briefly about indoor deployment. Jim Dean mentioned the proposal for apartment use in Ontario and in the Ramada Inn, Cornwall, Ontario. Joe Parkinson mentioned some potential deployment in BC.

Jean Claude Brien commented on the differences between the structures of US and Canadian power utilities. Power generation and distribution is more centralized in Canada, whereas in the US, there are many more smaller independent utilities.

Peter Hill added (26:37) a comment to the effect that the mass need for BPL may have actually been bypassed by real telecommunications alternatives, like WIMAX and WIFI. He expressed an interest in finding out whether or not the related subject of Ultra Wide Band may have eclipsed the importance of BPL. Joe Parkinson added that BPL is being rolled out in third-world countries (32:00) where there may be existing infrastructure for power and little else.

Jean-Claude Brien responded (28:00) with a brief summary on IC's work to address the UWB issue. Many issues including licensing need to be addressed.

Peter Hill suggested that it might be helpful for the next meeting if Jean-Claude could give a presentation of his assessment of the potential chances for a meaningful future for BPL in Canada.

6. Status of the Tower Consultation Process

Peter Hill provided a brief update on the status of the tower consultation process and moved into the Telecom Policy.

The antenna file is daunting, crossing many different areas of interest and jurisdictional levels.

The Policy has been pretty much completed. The processes involving land use are fairly well defined whereas issues such as safety code 6 and antenna lighting may change.

There are four new areas under development:

1- Sharing

Sharing should be mandated to the extent possible. This will affect commercial carriers and broadcasting primarily, with a focus on cellular companies.

2- Public consultation on significant installations - aesthetics, health concerns etc.

The public must be engaged – in the best interests of the carriers and broadcasters to do this. IC is trying to build the good neighbor philosophy into the policy to the extent possible.

3 - A tower is a tower – regardless of who is installing it – amateurs or commercial interests.

While there are some exemptions from consideration there are no exceptions.

4 – Default Protocols

Where land use authorities have no process in place, IC has created some minimal protocols which will be applied where there are no local protocols. This may encourage the authorities to become more engaged and build more relevant protocols of their own.

The greatest challenge that IC currently faces is the implementation of the policy and the question of how to mandate sharing.

Questions raised

Jim Dean mentioned participation in the stakeholders meetings in December and January, and wondered whether or not the revised draft policy paper has been distributed? He also queried the status of the working group to establish protocols that is to be chaired by Pim Vanderveen of Ontario Region. (1:02)

Peter Hill will speak with Pim and find out where his group stands. (1:19:00)

7. Telecom Policy Review (discussion)

Peter Hill presented a short summary on the recent telecom policy review and gave a brief description on where he feels telecom management and spectrum management may be going in the future.

The policy recommendation was clear on 2 issues:

- 1 - How to give force (license conditions)
- 2 - How to recognize and resolve disputes (who has priority)

8. Interference Situation Vancouver – Update by Ed Frazer (RAC)

Ed Frazer presented an update on the present interference situation that exists in the Vancouver region on the various repeaters. While there has been some progress with the response of the local IC office, there are still instances where the problem has resurfaced.

Peter Hill commended the efforts that have been made by the local amateurs to assist the enforcement efforts of IC, but emphasized the reality that exists in that departmental resources are limited. He reasserted the position that IC will continue to work with the amateurs and when sufficient evidence is acquired to support prosecution action, the department will act.

Rene Guerrette commented on the incorrect address problems complicating our enforcement activities, and while we can ultimately locate any given problem, it is time consuming and resource intensive. Nevertheless, when the situation demands it, the Department does have the tools (DF, remote monitoring facilities etc.) (1:51:00)

9. Call sign Considerations (RAC)

Richard Ferch spoke to some concerns relating to call signs and addresses outside of a call area. Rumors continue to circulate regarding IC's possible plans to implement a program to seek out incorrect prefix allocations. Should this be the case, RAC would be willing to assist through publicity and information dissemination in the Canadian Amateur.

Also, Richard touched on the deceased amateur issues and callsign re-allocation, and the potential for continued availability of 2 letter calls in some areas.

In response to the matter of prefix allocations, Rene Guerrette responded that the centre really doesn't set policy but are responsible for it's application. An example given is the non-disclosure fields and single letter call sign issues.

There are some practical issues for contesters in RIC-9 which need to be addressed - one example being contest call signs. Peter Hill suggested that there may be some potential here for RAC to assist IC in the administration of these call signs.

10. Administration of the Amateur Service (IC and RAC)

Jim Dean gave an update on the events that have transpired at RAC since the change in the contracting for the call sign data base service, and the fact that RAC will continue posting of the call sign database.

Rene Guerrette gave a brief update on how things are progressing with the new registry. He mentioned the two deliverables on the contract and how well things are progressing. The issue of validating on-line requests for address changes is still being discussed. Work still remains on the facility for posting accredited examiner dates – including the concern for removal of month and year information to avoid any complaints for posting what might be construed as personal information.

He expressed some concerns about the future implementation on some of the automated elements due to internal resource constraints and limitations. This likely won't be worked out before this time next year.

11. Accredited Examiners and Examinations (RAC and IC)

Jim Dean gave a short historical review of Accredited Examiner concerns and problems.. (2:25:00) He indicated that as a result of discussions between RAC and the Amateur Radio Service Centre (ARSC) corrective actions by the ARSC which have been outlined in the Regulatory Roundup column in *The Canadian Amateur (TCA)* magazine, have cleared up many problems and much of the confusion.

Rene Guerrette advised that the amendment of RIC-1 is on their agenda, and with this revision, the remaining problems should be resolved.

Jim Dean mentioned the previous action item regarding sponsorship of Accredited Examiners in communities that do not have an established club. While a proposed undertaking and process have not yet been ratified by the RAC Board of Directors, it is likely that RAC will take on sponsorship of such Accredited Examiners.

12. Impact of Morse decisions on reciprocal operating arrangements (RAC and IC) (2:34)

Jim Dean noted that there seems to be some confusion since WRC-03 due to the changes that have been occurring around the world with respect to the code requirements and the impact on

reciprocal operating arrangements, and especially with reciprocal operation under the CEPT Permits..

Jim asked that IC contacts CEPT to find out precisely how changes in the CEPT license classes are to be interpreted.

***Action Item**

Contact CEPT regarding the Morse qualifications and determine how it impacts the certificates.

Find out precisely how the Morse changes will be resolved

Find out how non-CEPT countries signatory to CEPT, deal amongst themselves.

12a – Youth Education Presentation (2:38)

Jim Dean gave an update on what has been happening with the RAC Youth Education Program (YEP). He noted that it continues to be popular with members and participants. During this school year, several new schools have come on-line – including The Ralph McCall School in Airdrie Alberta as well as Sir James Dunn Collegiate and Vocational School in Sault. St. Marie.

Peter Hill suggested that there may be opportunities to collaborate with Scouts Canada, as they are known to share an interest in these kinds of initiatives which get the next generation engaged in activities that promote growth and learning experiences.

13. Future restructuring of the amateur service in Canada

Presentation by Jim Dean. (2:47:00)

RAC has developed a PowerPoint presentation intended to introduce the issue of a possible restructuring of the Canadian Amateur service. The intent of the presentation is to put the options on the table and measure the level of support that might be in the amateur community and the public at large. This initiative has been undertaken to a large extent due to the successes experienced by the UK and Australia with their foundation licenses, which have resulted in considerable growth to their amateur services.

Peter Hill indicated that IC will be very interested in hearing the results of the survey, and commended RAC on the initiative.

14. RAC News (3:10)

Earle Smith emphasized the fact that the work RAC is doing on the amateur restructuring survey as well as the Youth Education Program are two of the most important activities that RAC has undertaken. They are seen as extremely important to ensure that we encourage a new stream of technical people to society.

15. Industry Canada News

Peter Hill noted the retirements of Fern Leger, Director Spectrum and Radio Services and Larry Shaw Director General Telecommunications Policy. Guy Mitchell will be replacing Fern until a permanent replacement is named.

New faces in DOS:

- Paul Lajoie acting Manager of Operations (DOSPO)

Jean-Claude Brien mentioned that Dr Veena Rowat's position as Deputy Director-General Spectrum Engineering will be soon filled, and they will have new staff on board for UWB help.

Rene Guerrette gave a brief update of personnel changes in Ontario.

Ontario region Director John Baggio is on language training, and Doug Prentice is acting for the next year to 18 months, with Pim Vanderveen filling in for Doug for the duration.

Hidden Agenda item.

Earle Smith delivered a surprise agenda item. A presentation of a commemorative plaque to Jim Dean for his years of service to RAC (3:20:00) [\[Nice idea but should it be recorded here? Thinking about the naysayers. This is not really a CARAB matter.\]](#)

16. Preparation for the next CARAB meeting – ()

Tentative Date: October 26

18. CARAB Communiqué

A communiqué summarizing the meeting highlights was prepared and will be distributed by RAC as a bulletin and in The Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine.

19. Adjournment

The 25th meeting of the CARAB was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.