

NINTH MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO
ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)

DATE: Monday, September 15, 1997

TIME: 09:00 to 15:00

Industry Canada
Room 1585D

PLACE: 300 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C8

CHAIR: Mike Connolly

AGENDA

PARTICIPANTS:

INDUSTRY CANADA: RAC:

Darius Breau	J. Farrell Hopwood
Tom Jones	Dennis Livesey
Harold Carmichael	Jim Dean
Kathleen McCrea	Doug Leach
	Ken Pulfer
	Daniel Lameroux
	Debbie Norman
	Ken Oelke

1) Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented with the addition of two items to be discussed under new business.

2) Acceptance of the minutes of the April 16, 1997 meeting

The minutes were accepted as written, moved by Farrell Hopwood, seconded by Jim Dean.

3) Discussion on the status of the amateur delegation initiative.

Following the meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister last April, work was done on putting together a contractual initiative with respect to amateur examination and the

issuance of certificates. In discussions between the RAC and Industry Canada it was determined that ARAS/SARA could potentially enter into a contract with Industry Canada with respect to overseeing the amateur examination process as well as the issuance of operator certificates. This contractual process would require the posting by Industry Canada of a request for proposal (RFP) on the open bidding system. The Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG) members have been given an overview of the proposal for their information and the RAC are currently studying the matter. The RAC will determine if they are willing to participate in this contact proposal.

The RAC expressed their initial disappointment in the manner in which Industry Canada is currently proceeding with this initiative as they are unsure of their ability to participate in the contractual process that has been outlined. However, they will be examining the proposal in depth and will further advise Industry Canada. Industry Canada will not be issuing the RFP without first discussing with the RAC any concerns they have in this matter.

4) Report on RAC/Industry Canada Projects

I) Continuation of Internet facilities

The contract was let last April for the continuation of the Internet facilities which contains the call sign data base as well as associated amateur documents. Several new Industry Canada documents have been added and it is anticipated that Industry Canada will renew the contract when it expires on March 31, 1998.

II) Examination Software

This project has not been finalized as some additional work is required on the print module and the examination generator module. These are essentially enhancements that have been identified during the beta testing and need to be addressed. Industry Canada will review the current contract with the RAC and it is anticipated that the contract can be wrapped up by the end of December. A problem has been discovered with one of the French accented characters and for the moment, the questions have been reworded to avoid this situation. It is expected that future editions of the basic print module software will be amended by the manufacturer to correct this problem.

III) Examination question banks

These have been completed and reviewed by Industry Canada and accepted. In order to close the contract the RAC will be providing Industry Canada with the final printout of the question banks. The point was raised as to whether the bilingual format of the question bank printout could have the French or English questions left justified depending upon whether the person taking the examination was French or English. After some discussion it was determined that we should take notice of these nuances and follow the best approach for the situation. Jim Dean noted that the question banks have been constructed to go into force with amateur delegation and should this not

occur, we would need to discuss the implementation of this initiative at CARAB before proceeding.

5) Review of Ongoing Activities

a) Status of the Ministerial Delegation to the RAC for issuing International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) and CEPT update

The Ministerial delegation has been received by the RAC for issuance of these permits and this item is now considered closed. The RAC brought up the fact that an indication is needed on the permit to show that these permits are being issued by the RAC under a delegation of authority from Industry Canada. Industry Canada indicated that they will contact their legal people in order to ensure that the correct wording is articulated and advise the RAC accordingly.

b) 220-222 MHZ sharing arrangement with the FCC

It is Industry Canada's understanding that the document has been approved by the Federal Communication Commission and they are awaiting the Bureau chiefs concurrence. As this has been an agenda item for sometime, Industry Canada will talk to the FCC to attempt to ensure that this item is finalized shortly.

c) Industry Canada policy with respect to examination of disabled amateurs

There has been much discussion of this item over the years and Industry Canada is concerned that the procedure for accommodated testing of amateur candidates not be overly prescriptive. The RAC recognizes this concern, however they believe that a minor clarification is required to Internal Procedures Circular (IPC) 2-7-02 to take into account the fact that there is no provision in regulation to waive testing and accommodated testing will be considered on a case by case basis. It was agreed that the appropriate sentence can be added to the IPC in order to reflect this. It was also agreed that possession of a physician's certificate should not necessarily be the sole criteria used to determine if an individual should receive accommodated testing. Industry Canada agreed to develop additional wording for the IPC with respect to the above noted clarification.

d) Industry Canada fee policy with respect to amateur licences

With respect to licence fees, the government of Canada has had a long standing policy that the cost of a right or privilege granted by the government should reflect the market value of that resource. However, in the absence of a market determination, this value is difficult to determine. In the case of auctions, it is the policy of the Minister to apply this technique only in cases where there is excess demand for a portion of the radio frequency spectrum. In respect to amateur licences, it is difficult to see how auctioning could be applicable to the amateur service. However, if it was determined that, in the future, certain bands that were allocated to services such as

amateur on a secondary basis, were to be re-allocated, this would only be done after full public consultation had taken place, as is standard practice.

It was stated by Industry Canada that there is currently no initiative in the government agenda to increase amateur radio station licence fees.

e) Industry Canada review of the single letter call sign

It is still the concern of the RAC that there is inconsistency in the assignment of single letter suffixes for call signs. Industry Canada stated that these are not assigned on a permanent basis however there is a variance with respect to how these are assigned (example: duration, eligibility) in the regions. It was concluded that this particular item was with respect to national consistency and would be handled in conjunction with the recommendations of the call sign working group.

f) RAC role in the assignment of special call signs

It was clarified that the title of this item was somewhat misleading as it had been discussed at the last CARAB meeting strictly in respect of the assignment of special call signs that did not meet the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) regulations for amateur call sign assignment. The intent of the proposal was not to involve the RAC in every request that Industry Canada received for assignment of a special call sign.

Only under extreme circumstances would Industry Canada consider call sign assignments that do not respect the ITU format and in such cases Industry Canada would ask that the applicant obtain RAC support for their request. The RAC had no particular problem with this approach, however they felt that this item should also be addressed within the call sign working group recommendations.

6) New Business

a) Discussion of the recommendations as outlined in the call sign working group report

The RAC President indicated that he had approached the RAC directors for their input on the document but had not received any comments to date. He considered the document to be essentially a status quo type of report and contained a lack of precision on some items. As the RAC is the national organization for Canadian amateurs, Industry Canada stated that they would appreciate their opinion on the recommendations before proceeding with any action. The RAC stated that they felt the consultation period may have been too short and they would most likely wish to pursue further consultation with the amateur community before taking definitive positions on the recommendations. The RAC President asked that he be given the opportunity to discuss this issue with the Board of Directors before proceeding.

b) Review of WRC-97/99 issues impacting on amateur radio

Jim Dean, government liaison for the RAC gave an overview of their participation to date on the Canadian Preparatory Committee for WRC-97/99 issues. To date it has included study and input with respect to the operation of low earth orbiting satellites (LEO'S), windprofiler radar transmissions and intelligent highway vehicle Systems. These types of radio systems may be operating in bands in which amateurs currently share secondary status with other radio services. It was pointed out that use of the radio frequency spectrum is becoming an increasingly important resource and participation by advocacy groups at the appropriate national and international forums is necessary to ensure your opinion is heard.

c) Regulations enforcement - complaints from amateur clubs and operators

The RAC stated that they are receiving complaints from several parts of the country concerning harmful interference. They recognize that Industry Canada can only devote a certain amount of time to the amateur bands and they would like to get some direction from Industry Canada as to the co-operative relationships that could be put in place between themselves and the District Offices of Industry Canada to address malicious incidents where habitual offenders refuse to co-operate and interference situations persist.

Industry Canada gave an update on the ticketing regulations that are currently in place in some provinces with respect to infractions of the Radiocommunication Regulations. Unfortunately, because these ticketing regulations are promulgated on a provincial basis, they will not come into force across the country at the same time.

The RAC stated that the problem appears to be in some cases, when harmful interference is documented by amateurs, Industry Canada is unable to take action. Industry Canada stated that the tools exist to deal with these extreme cases of malicious interference. The RAC should present the district offices with the specifics of such cases and follow up with them with respect to the action taken.

d) Update on the ongoing work of Dr. Townsend with regard to his current study on antenna structures and land-use authorities

Industry Canada has contracted Mr. Townsend of the University of New Brunswick to study potential ways in which municipalities and other land-use authorities may have further involvement in the consultation procedures for antenna installations. This study is of a procedural, rather than legal nature and will not have an impact on what had previously been the findings of professor Townsend as published in his first report in 1987. With the growth of wireless communications in the last decade and the implementation of procedures with respect to towers by other administration, the object is to propose recommendations that can enhance the current land-use consultation procedure as outlined in Client Procedures Circular

(CPC) 2-0-03.

e) RAC concerns with respect to gazette notice DGTP-006-97

The RAC noted that a number of band re-allocation proposals are taking place for frequency bands where amateurs share secondary allocation. In many cases, it appears that the authors of these documents within Industry Canada have not recognized amateur secondary operation as a potential for concern.

Industry Canada stated that due to the secondary status of amateur allocations, the authors of these documents may have not identified amateur radio operators as a prime area of interest. However, all these proposals go through the standard government public consultation process, therefore it is incumbent upon the RAC to keep themselves apprised of the issues and respond accordingly.

f) RAC approved band plans 50-2300 MHZ and above

As a information item the RAC noted that they have their band plans available on their web page for those bands that amateurs utilize on a primary and secondary basis. Before assignments are made to other services they would appreciate consideration by Industry Canada of their assignments and plans.

As well, with the current pressure for utilization of bands where amateurs currently share secondary status, they are attempting to provide primary status for some allocations. This will need to be done through the Canadian preparatory Committee and the international forum where the RAC will participate.

g) Spectrum Auction Policy

This item was previously discussed under item 5(d).

Addition items:

h) IHVS (Intelligent Highway Vehicle Systems)

As the band 5650-5925 MHz is assigned to amateurs on a secondary basis and is used for amateur satellite communications, the RAC is concerned that it may also be used for IHVS in the near future. With respect to the 1-20GHz review, Industry Canada pointed out that the Department expects to release a separate public consultation on the use of certain bands in the range of 5000-5850 MHz in the near future. It was suggested that the RAC contact our policy branch for further information on what may be being proposed.

I) Amateur Certificate privileges

The RAC posed the question as to whether Industry Canada was open to considering modifications to the privileges accorded to holders of the basic amateur

certificate. Specifically, this was with respect to operation in the 10 meter band. As the sun spot cycle is becoming favorable for communication in this band , it is felt authority for such operation would be of interest to new amateurs.

Industry Canada stated that they would consider any proposal from the RAC that related to the modification of amateur operator certificate privileges for the amateur bands.

7) Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the CARAB is scheduled for May 4, 1998 in Ottawa.