

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO
ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: Wednesday, April 16, 1997

TIME: 09:00 to 15:00

PLACE: Industry Canada
Room 1585D
300 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C8

CHAIR: J. Farrell Hopwood

PARTICIPANTS:

INDUSTRY CANADA: RAC:

Darius Breau	Dennis Livesey
Tom Jones	Jim Dean
Harold Carmichael	Doug Leach
Kathleen McCrea	Doug Frame
Mike Connolly	Pierre Roger
	Ken Pulfer
	Daniel Lameroux

1) Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented with the addition of 3 items to be discussed under new business.

2) Acceptance of the minutes of the September 13, 1996 meeting

It was pointed out that under new business 5 (b) the title should read "Candidate Bands". The minutes were accepted as written, moved by Jim Dean, seconded by Mike Connolly.

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

Mike Connolly gave an overview, from the Industry Canada perspective, as to what

had transpired with the amateur delegation initiative. As had been pointed out in the letter to the RAC President from Jan Skora, the reason Industry Canada decided not to go ahead at this time was due to complication in the funding mechanism that had been identified. In this regard, Mike stated that " the ball was no doubt in Industry Canada's court". However, Industry Canada still intended to proceed with the delegation initiative although getting ARAS/SARA established would now impact on a years loss in the proposed time frame and a need to identify the determining factors for ARAS/SARA and the RAC. It was quite understandable that, due to financial and other commitments, the RAC felt that they could not continue participation in this matter until Industry Canada had sorted out the funding issues.

The RAC stated that they understood the current situation, however the RAC expressed their disappointment in Industry Canada's decision not to proceed with the delegation initiative at this time. The RAC also felt that a more concrete understanding of the road ahead was needed before they could commit to continue their participation in this initiative. Industry Canada noted that, with respect to new time frames for delegation, the new scope of the project had not yet been reviewed by Industry Canada. Therefore at this point in time, it would be premature to suggest any potential implementation dates.

It was recognized that RAC members on such committees as the ADWG and involved in the delegation contracts had volunteered much of their time and effort to this initiative. The RAC pointed out that, to proceed in the future would likely require more formal mechanisms be put in place with regard to Industry Canada/RAC partnership in respect to the development of this initiative.

4) Report on RAC/Industry Canada projects ongoing

I) Continuation and enhancement of Internet facilities

Jim Dean reported on the status of the internet facilities the contract for which had expired March 31, 1997. A number of enhancements were made to the internet facilities and the reaction from the amateur community has been extremely positive. It is recommended that Industry Canada continue the funding of this data base under the ARAS/SARA name until the future of delegation could be worked out. Having the call sign data base and documents available in this manner is considered to be well worth the effort. It was also planned to have the level of certificate held by an amateur combined with the call sign data base, however this enhancement will now have to be put on hold while delegation is reviewed.

Therefore, Industry Canada agreed in principle, that the data base site should continue, subject to approval by the RAC Board of Directors and finalization of the contract. Doug Frame pointed out that it will be necessary to make changes to the introductory message on the ARAS/SARA home page, with respect to delegation, to provide a update of the current situation.

II) Examination software

Jim Dean spoke of some of the contract work that had been done with respect to delegation. User requirements and functional specification were developed for a stand alone management system for ARAS/SARA and request for proposals (RFP) was published by Industry Canada. This project has since been put on hold until the future for delegation is clearer.

As well, part of the ARAS/SARA initiative required management of the delegated examiners and some work has already been done by the RAC in constructing a delegated examiner manual. This initiative has also been put on hold until the future of delegation is worked out.

A separate project with respect to a new examination module to replace "APES" has been ongoing for sometime. The current module is in the Beta testing phase. The contract has been re-issued for this year to cover the finalization of the examination software.

III) Examination question banks

In order to improve the current amateur question banks and add additional questions to the banks a contract was let to the RAC. This has been completed and the final draft was delivered to Industry Canada for approval. Harold Carmichael of Industry Canada has gone over the question banks and completed his review at the end of March. Once the modification have been made the project will be considered finalized. As this was to be put in place with delegation, Industry Canada will have to decide whether or not the new examination system should be put in place prior to any delegation.

5) Review of Ongoing Activities

I) International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) and CEPT update.

The two agreements have been negotiated for reciprocal amateur radio operation. One is with the European Radio Union (CEPT) and the other with the Organization of American States (IARP) and the letter of delegation is in the process of being sent to the Minister. It's hoped that this delegation to the RAC will be completed within the next several weeks.

II) 220-222 MHZ sharing arrangement with the FCC

The situation remain unchanged from the status update at the last CARAB. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has agreed to our proposal in principle for a co-ordination arrangement, however this still needs to be ratified by their administration.

III) Call sign working group report

Since all the CARAB members had not had the time to review the report, it was decided that the report should be officially tabled and both RAC and Industry Canada members should examine it further before commenting. It was suggested that the recommendations be reviewed by the CARAB members and a discussion would take place at a later date. RAC will attempt to provide their comments on the recommendations to Industry Canada by June 1, 1997.

6) New Business

I) Discussion of Industry Canada policy with respect to examination of disabled amateur candidates

With respect to examinations there has been a long standing concern that people may use a disability in order circumvent the examination process. This currently causes concern among delegated examiners when people they feel are qualified to take the examination are accommodated because of a perceived disability. As well, should ARAS/SARA be delegated to take over the examination function they would need clearer guidance from Industry Canada with respect to procedures for accommodated testing.

Discussion took place regarding the benefits and concerns with respect to the accommodated testing of candidates and accepting medical certificates as evidence of a disability. It was agreed that Industry Canada should re-examine their current procedures for testing delegated examiners and any new proposals could be reviewed at the next CARAB.

II) Amateur Station Licence Fees

With respect to the licence fee project to examine fees for all services, Industry Canada gave an update. Due to the magnitude of the project, Industry Canada has decided to focus on the land-mobile bands below 1 GHz. Therefore, Industry Canada has currently put aside the fee adjustment for the amateur service as well as other services, such as fixed point-to-point services above 1 GHz. These will be looked at in a future initiative. In the case of amateur radio fees, it is very likely that Industry Canada would likely study these in conjunction with other licensees who will be looked at in the perspective of an administrated price rather than a market value type of assessment for the spectrum being used.

III) IARU proposes worldwide 7 MHZ allocation for the Amateur Service

This item was for information purposes only. A document was circulated from the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) which outlined their proposal for addressing, at World Administrative Radio Conference (WRC) 99 an allocation around 7 MHZ of no less than 300 KHz for amateur spectrum on an exclusive, world-

wide basis. The RAC will continue to follow the progress of this initiative.

IV) Assignment of single letter suffix policy

The RAC indicated that there appears to be an inconsistency in the assignment of single letter suffixes. Through these are suppose to be assigned for a short duration only, there appear to be situation where these calls are assigned on a permanent basis. Industry Canada is to clarify the current policy on the assignment of single letter suffixes and report back to the CARAB.

V) Permission to use special call sign

It was brought up that Industry Canada is, in some cases, asking applicants who request special call sign prefixes to contact the RAC for endorsement of their request before Industry Canada will consider it further. The RAC pointed out that they do not want to be perceived as approving amateur call sign requests. Industry Canada explained that only under exceptional circumstances will they assign special call sign prefixes. As a consequence, before considering a request they would normally ask that the applicant obtain some confirmation from the RAC indicating that the RAC endorse the application on the basis that it is a special significance. As the RAC is the national association representing Canadian amateurs, Industry Canada relies on them to provide an indication of the merits of these sorts of applications on a case by case basis. The RAC indicated that they would discuss this matter with the board of directors to determine if they needed to put together a more concrete position on this matter.

VI) Windprofilers in the 440-1270 MHZ

It was pointed out by the RAC that a Canadian proposal to World Radio Conference (WRC) 97 for Wind Profiler Radars at 1270-1295 MHZ is being drafted. Atmospheric Environment Services has expressed a Canadian interest for a common worldwide or regional assignment for windprofilers around 1 GHz. International Telecommunications Union - Regulatory, (ITU-R) Task Group 8/2 reviewed this issue and identified candidate bands, including 1270-1295 MHZ in which the amateur service has a worldwide secondary allocation.

This item will be addressed by the RAC in their advocacy role on behalf of Canadian amateurs with their participation in the Canadian Preparatory Committee for WRC-97.

7) Date of next meeting

The next CARAB meeting will take place in Ottawa on September 15, 1997.