

**SECOND MEETING OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO  
ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)**

**THURSDAY MARCH 17, 1994  
9:00 TO 15:30  
PORTSMOUTH OLYMPIC HARBOUR SITE  
53 YONGE STREET  
KINGSTON, ONTARIO**

**Chair:** Farrell Hopwood

**Participants:**

**RAC**

Earle Smith  
Jean-Guy Riverin  
Ken Pulfer  
Jim Dean  
Ralph Cameron  
Debbie Norman  
Doug Frame  
Bill Gillis

**ISC**

Mike Connolly  
Darius Breau  
Tom Jones  
Garth Roberts  
Doug Prentice

Before the meeting commenced, a video produced by the RAC was shown for the information of the participants. The video outlined amateur radio activities and the services amateur radio operators provide for the community. Also shown was a short companion video produced by the RAC for the benefit of municipalities outlining the current situation regarding antennas and their associated supporting structures.

**1) Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as tabled.

**2) Minutes of September 22, 1993 Meeting**

There were no comments on the minutes of the last meeting.

**3) Review/Follow-up Items submitted to Deputy Minister**

a) Amateurs and antenna structures:

At the last CARAB, Industry Canada was to develop a package of documents that could be distributed to the public, explaining the policy and procedures implemented by Industry Canada with respect to the erection of antennas and antenna supporting structures. This package was to include the Client Procedures Circular (CPC ) on municipal consultation and environmental assessment as well as the report by Professor David Townsend on Canadian municipalities and the regulation of antenna structures, outlining the Minister's powers in this matter. Unfortunately the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) has not yet been proclaimed and it is not expected that this will take place until the fall. At that time the revised CPC will be published and the document package distributed. Also included in the package is an article prepared by the RAC suggesting guidelines for the erection of antenna structures.

b) Enforcement matters:

Industry Canada and the RAC agreed that they will be addressing this matter within the delegated functions of the Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG) therefore the subject will be addressed in the context of the delegation project. The RAC circulated a document concerning an overview of enforcement problems for the amateur service. This was tabled for information only.

c) Electromagnetic Compatibility:

Industry Canada gave an overview of the purpose of Telecommunications Regulatory Circular (TRC) 86, how it was developed and where Industry Canada plans to proceed in the future. Representatives from the RAC then proceeded to explain the current situation from their perspective. The situation was discussed at some length among the participants. It was recognized that as a result of the manner in which the draft was conveyed, without benefit of context, there has been some misunderstanding by the amateur community with respect to the purpose of TRC-86. It was also pointed out that as amateurs generally operate in residential areas where radio sensitive equipment (RSE ) problems occur, they have a major interest in any policies that Industry Canada proposes to develop. The RAC acknowledged Industry Canada's desire to establish field strength criteria to assist in the resolution of RSE immunity problems. However, the establishment of such criteria is unacceptable to the RAC without the simultaneous adoption of RSE standards for electronic equipment. The RAC will continue to pursue the adoption of mandatory RSE standards for electronic equipment sold in Canada.

d) Protection of Frequency Allocation (220-222 MHz)

Industry Canada has met with the FCC and proposed a sharing arrangement that is independent of whatever the final allocation for this band may be. Industry Canada will be meeting with the FCC later this spring in an attempt to get their agreement on this sharing arrangement. The RAC was pleased to advise and assist Industry Canada in the work associated with the proposed sharing arrangement with the FCC over the

current use of 220-222 MHz.

The public comment phase of the 30-960 MHz review has concluded and the comments are now part of the public record. Industry Canada expects that any decision concerning potential re-allocation of the 220-225 MHz band will be announced by the fall. Interested parties are encouraged to review the public comments that were received. The RAC has registered its objection to this proposed re-allocation.

#### 4) Update on the Amateur Delegation Initiatives

Jim Dean gave an overview on the progress that has been made by the Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG). This group of Industry Canada/RAC members was formed after an inaugural meeting on December 2, 1993 in order to facilitate the development of a formal delegation agreement and the business case for the delegation of Amateur activities to the RAC. Jim's report covered progress that has been made on the development of a draft agreement and business case during the period of December 93 to the end of February 94.

He also gave an overview of how he foresees the group proceeding in the immediate future.

Jim Dean's report was accepted by CARAB as presented.

A preliminary draft agreement was also handed out for the information of the Board.

It was agreed that the ADWG had made good progress and should continue with their work and report to the board at each meeting .

#### 5) Time Management

Farrell Hopwood put forth the proposal of a critical path being developed to track the progress of the ADWG and to report on the progress of their activities. It was agreed that this should be developed and will be presented by June 1, 1994 to the CARAB co-chairs.

#### 6) Medical Waivers

This item was discussed and it was agreed that as a general rule the current procedure was not being abused. Industry Canada is aware of the potential for abuse and would assess any such incidents on a case by case basis. As a related item the RAC brought up the necessity for an audit procedure for delegated examiners. Industry Canada

explained that we are currently putting in place such a national procedure. The RAC also pointed out that there is currently a discrepancy between Industry Canada document's, Radio Information Circular (RIC) 1 and RIC 24 . Industry Canada will investigate this and amend the documents accordingly.

#### 7) Review the practice of assigning two-letter suffix call signs

The Department currently uses policy guidelines in the assignment of two letter call signs. With the advent of the "VA" series larger regions, such as Ontario, have been able to satisfy the demand for two letter call signs.

The RAC would like to see Industry Canada continue with our current policy for allowing the assignment of two letter suffix call signs. Industry Canada agreed to continue to follow this procedure. The ADWG will further explore this issue in the development of their business case proposal. An additional item, the matter of the assignment of the QST suffix, was brought up but will be discussed at a later date.

#### 8) Common Amateur Licence

The RAC would like Region 2 countries to have common operating privileges throughout the region for amateur radio. Apparently a letter has been sent to the Director General, Radio Regulatory Branch of Industry Canada inquiring about this matter. The Industry Canada members of CARAB had no knowledge of the request and will investigate the situation.

##### Other item:

Jean-Guy spoke about RAQI and their current situation with respect to the RAC. It is the plan of RAQI and the RAC to exist as independent but affiliated organizations, with RAQI having at least one RAC executive member. It was pointed out that, from the perspective of Industry Canada, RAQI will be considered to be under the umbrella of the RAC and Industry Canada would be dealing with the RAC exclusively with respect to national issues.

#### 9) Date of Next Meeting

The next CARAB meeting will be held during the 3 or 4th week of September, to be confirmed at a later date. The anticipated location is Ottawa.

END OF MEETING