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JAN 12 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

IN THE MATTER OF PR DOCKET 93-267

Secretary, FCC  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary:

I am writing with regard to the proposal for instant licensing. This foolhardy idea can only lead to the deterioration of the amateur radio service.

The commission's proposal is quite surprising, considering the fact that the problem of delayed license processing has already been addressed. In October, 1992, in Public Law 102-538, Congress authorized the FCC to implement electronic filing of applications by allowing them to be signed "in any manner or form, including by electronic means, as the Commission may prescribe by regulation. It's been over a year since Congress acted, yet the new electronic filing procedures still have yet to be implemented. At the time, the Commission assured that "electronic filing system will expedite the licensing process by eliminating the need for manual entry of application data into the commission's data base." So why the foolhardy idea for instant licensing? Perhaps this is a side-effect of the wild, run-away de-regulation that began with the Reagan era?

This new instant licensing plan also reflects a present-day society that is always looking for instant solutions to all problems. We can witness this in the news media- instant headlines that deal superficially with only the tip of the iceberg. People aren't willing to be patient anymore- pass an exam, and they want the license immediately. Well, surrendering to this quick-fix attitude can only degrade amateur radio. This is a wonderful hobby which includes amateurs who earned their privileges through great effort; I refuse to let it get diminish to the lowest possible denominator. After waiting ten weeks, I received my no-code technician license in late September, 1992. Through many hours of hard work, I managed to upgrade quickly to general in early January, and then on to advanced class in May, 1993. Instant licensing may just be the first step in allowing easier access to the HF frequencies. What's next, no-code for all bands?

Perhaps the worst outcome of the instant licensing is that call-signs would be self-assigned, with no way for the amateur radio community to check on the validity of a suspicious operator. Virtually anyone could get on any frequency with a phony call-sign! In its Notice, the Commission doesn't even discuss the need for safeguards against such abuse. Also, it's incredible that the FCC determined only a few years ago that it lacked the authority to implement a temporary licensing proposal. Why should such a ridiculous plan even be considered now?

As an ARRL member, I am in total agreement with the League that the early implementation of electronic filing is the only way of getting new amateurs on the air faster. Based on conversations with other amateurs, I am convinced that this is also the opinion of a vast majority of ham radio operators.

Sincerely,

*Mark Hanok*

Mark Hanok - N2SMB

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JAN 12 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

January 3, 1994

Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554In the matter of PR Docket 93-267

"Instant Licensing" in the Amateur Radio Service

Gentlemen:

I wish to express the strongest possible opposition to this proposal for the following reasons:

1. The Amateur Radio Service has a long tradition of self policing made more important in recent years due to the Commission's reduced resources for enforcement activities. Because of the "self-assigned" call signs that would be used in this proposal, self policing by the amateur fraternity would be impossible. Unlicensed operators would be able to engage particularly in HF operation indefinitely simply by periodically changing their self-assigned call sign.

2. The ongoing operation well beyond the limits of the 11 meter Citizens Band by would be communicators in the 26 to 28 megahertz region indicates that there are a large number of persons who might take advantage of the proposed interim licensing to operate in the amateur bands without being licensed.

I do understand the Commission's problem in handling the many inquiries by persons waiting for licenses. However, I am a Volunteer Examiner and have noted that in recent months the turn-around time for licenses has been significantly shorter and assume that you are receiving fewer calls. I am also aware that you will soon have a new system on line that will allow electronic filing by VECs which will greatly reduce turn-around time.

I would therefore urge that instead of "opening a can of worms" that may haunt the Commission and the Amateur Radio Service for years to come, the Commission do the following:

1. Continue the process that has resulted in the recent shortening of license turn-around time.
2. Do whatever can be done to bring your new system on line as soon as possible.
3. Ask the VECs to have their VEs strongly urge successful examinees not to contact the Commission earlier than 120 days after the examination date.

In summary, because much faster license processing is soon to be on line I urge this problem producing solution to a temporary problem not be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

*James H. Scott*  
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