

4 2 1995  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DISPATCHED BY

PR Docket No. 93-267

In the Matter of

Amendment of the Amateur Service RM-8288  
Rules to Extend Temporary  
Operating Authority to New  
Amateur Operators.

**MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER**  
(Proceeding Terminated)

Adopted: April 19, 1995; Released: May 2, 1995

By the Commission:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice)*<sup>1</sup> in this proceeding, we proposed to amend the Commission's rules to provide temporary operating authority to a person who passes the examination for a new amateur operator license. For the reasons given herein, this *Memorandum Opinion and Order* terminates the proceeding.

**II. BACKGROUND**

2. An amateur operator who has passed the required examination, and who has submitted an application to the volunteer examiners (VEs) for a higher class of operator license, is authorized to operate his or her station using the greater privileges immediately. A Certificate of Successful Completion (CSCE) is the visible evidence of the examinee's operating authority until receipt of the license document. There is no comparable procedure for a successful examinee who does not already hold a license. To remedy this situation, the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society/VEC, Inc. (Wescars) filed a petition for rule making (RM-8288). That petition provided the impetus for our proposal in this proceeding.

**III. DISCUSSION**

3. The commenters generally oppose the concept of a temporary operating authority for new amateur operators because they fear that it will be abused by persons who would fabricate false call signs and operate without any license. This is in direct contrast to those upgrading, as

they already have an FCC-issued call sign. In addition, the commenters assert that the waiting period before receiving a license is not too long and affords a new licensee the opportunity to observe how to communicate in the amateur service.<sup>2</sup> In its comments, The American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL) noted that electronic filing would save application processing time because the volunteer-examiner coordinators (VECs)<sup>3</sup> would enter the data from the applications they receive into an electronic format that can be sent at high speed over telephone lines to the Commission's processing facility. No manual reentering of data by the Commission's staff would be required. Because a license could be received in a relatively short time, less than two weeks, ARRL sees no need for a temporary license procedure.<sup>4</sup>

4. A number of other commenters also recommend that the Commission introduce electronic filing into the licensing process.<sup>5</sup> In an *Order* dated October 17, 1994,<sup>6</sup> the Commission, by the Chief, Private Radio Bureau, amended the amateur service rules to permit electronic filing by the VECs. Electronic filing has now been implemented on a voluntary basis by the VECs that handle ninety-five percent of the amateur service applications. It is significantly reducing the time required to receive and process applications for new amateur operator licenses. Time is conserved because there is no need for manual reentry of the data at our licensing facility. Finally, authorization to operate the amateur station now commences when our license processing facility grants the license by entering the appropriate data in the amateur service licensee data base. These procedures often allow a new amateur operator to begin operating an amateur station within a few days after the electronically-filed data is received by the Commission.

5. Accordingly, we conclude that the implementation of electronic filing of applications has made the proposed temporary operating authority unnecessary. Therefore, we decline to implement a temporary operating authority.

**IV. ORDERING CLAUSES**

6. For the reasons given herein, and pursuant to the authority contained in 47 U.S.C § 154(i), this proceeding IS TERMINATED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary

<sup>1</sup> 8 FCC Rcd 7916 (1993).

<sup>2</sup> See, for example, comments of Anthony Pelliccio at 1, Richard J. Kuster at 1, and James R. Bridgers at 1.

<sup>3</sup> There are eighteen VECs that coordinate the work of some 30,000 VEs who prepare and administer examinations for new and upgraded amateur operator licenses. As part of this process,

the VECs receive and screen the application forms from the VEs and forward them to the Commission.

<sup>4</sup> Comments of ARRL at 7 and 8.

<sup>5</sup> See comments of Frank Pitman, Jr. at 1, Michael Kelly at 1, Douglas Cohen at 1, and Edwin Beach at 1.

<sup>6</sup> 9 FCC Rcd 6111 (1994).