

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the Record 1 of 1

Applicant Name: Philip Cortis

Proceeding Name: 98-143 Author Name:

Lawfirm Name:

Contact Name: applicant_name Contact Email: pdcortis@nic.edu

Address Line 1: 3137 N 12th St

Address Line 2:

City: Coeur d'Alene State: ID

Zip Code: 83815 Postal Code:

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Greetings:

I have been a ham operator for seven years now and have generally agreed with the actions of the ARRL, but I strongly disagree with their plan for ham radio re-organization.

I believe their philosophy that no amateur should lose privileges will result in the greatest give away since the land rush. It will allow unqualified hams on HF bands without studying or being tested on necessary safety, propagation, theory or frequency issues.

If I read their proposal correctly, anyone with a novice or no-code plus will be grandfathered into the "general" class. This action is not supported by the majority of hams answering their questionnaire of last year and will lead to, I believe, real problems on the HF bands.

I support the FCC's plan to simplify the hams license structure, and would suggest that the Extra Class testing drop the 20 wpm CW and include a more stringent written exam.

I applaud the FCC's plan to allow Advanced class hams to test others to the General class level. I am an Advanced class ham and actively participate in a local VE testing team at a limited capacity. I look forward to the chance to be of more help to my team.

Finally, I agree with most hams answering the ARRL questionnaire last year in that some form of CW testing is still appropriate. I would suggest one level of testing to enter the world of HF radio at 12 wpm.

I guess what I'm saying is this:

Remove the Novice license class
Keep the No-code Technician class
Remove the Technician Plus class
Keep the General class with CW testing at 12 wpm
Keep the Advanced class
Keep the Extra class without CW and with a rewrite of the paper exam.

Thanks for your time and trouble:
Phil Corlis, KI7ZY