

The ARRL Reply Comments are seriously flawed in that they too, like the prior ARRL Proposal, ignore proposals for equitable restitution of General Class privileges already earned, then lost through previous Restructuring actions; This, based on the fact that retesting has never been a requirement for licenses faultlessly kept current. My comments to the Commission and to ARRL on the subject dated 12/08/98 refer.

Quoting from the "Restructuring FAQ" at the ARRL Website:

....Q: I've got nothing against Novices--I was one myself--but an automatic upgrade to something that's even better than the present General seems awfully generous.

....A: It is generous. On the other hand, if the goal is structural simplification, either someone has to lose privileges or someone has to gain. The Board was adamant that no one should lose privileges. Unquote

If in implementing action on the NPRM, no one is to lose privileges, but some are to gain--then I say: Surely those who lost earned privileges during past restructuring actions should regain at least some of these privileges now. I believe equity dictates an automatic upgrade from General to Advanced for those continually licensed since the time passing General Class exams meant full access to all amateur bands. In my case, that was 1955.

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