

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

To: The Commission

cc: Chairman William E. Kennard
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth
Commissioner Gloria Tristani

I would like to address the issue of the Amateur Extras Class telegraphy test requirement, as filed in section IV of the "Petition for Reconsideration", by Wormser, Adsit and Dinelli.

As a Technician Class licensee (KC8LDO) for over a year, a graduate Electrical Engineer with over 20 years of experience in power electronics, and a near graduate in Mathematics-Computer Science (spring 2000), I feel the telegraphy test requirement should remain at 5 wpm for the license classes that permit access to those Amateur bands where the frequencies are below 30 MHz. From both a practical stand point and from Part 97.1 (section b, c, and d), any Morse Code speed requirement beyond the 5 wpm requirement, in the released report and order, has not been demonstrated by Wormser, Adsit and Dinelli, in their petition, to provide any advantage. In addition the issue of why is maintaining Morse Code speed at 20 wpm for Amateur Extras Class vs. 5 wpm for all other license classes as being acceptable was totally ignored.

From a practical stand point Wormser, Adsit and Dinelli damage their own argument for Morse Code being a superior mode (or mode of choice) for communication in a high noise environment. The recent emergence of PSK31 is a good example. There are increasing number of reports where PSK31 was readable where Morse Code failed to get through. The extend that a knowledge of Morse Code contributed to the invention of PSK31 is acknowledge by the authors of the petition as uncertain from a quote from their own petition,

"The petitioners believe that this example is one of many proving that knowledge of telegraphy is not obsolete knowledge."

,in fact they are just guessing. In their single example of Morse Code contributing to the advancement of the radio art, the authors of the petition fail to convincingly prove their point

The authors of the petition have failed to demonstrate how high speed Morse Code testing fits in with Part 97.1 (section b, c, and d). Morse code has been in use for well over 100 years, first by the railroads and now radio, and during that time Morse Code has done little to advance the radio art. Looking at the breath of communications one really has to ask how does Morse Code contribute to single-side-band phone, FM, fast scan TV, packet networking, spread spectrum, new digital modes such as PSK31, and satellite operations to mention a few? The answer is very little if anything, all of the after mentioned developments would have occurred without Morse Code.

The authors of the petition spend considerable effort stressing Morse Code's roll in emergency communications but fail to address two issues, why is 5 wpm acceptable for all other license classes except Amateur Extras Class, and 20 wpm does not imply that all Amateur Extras Class licensees maintain their code speed after testing.

It is well documented in the FCC's database that the Amateur Extras Class licensee make up a small percentage of Morse Code tested Amateur licensees. It is also recognized that Amateurs of all

classes have distinguished themselves during emergency operations, including those tested at less than 20 wpm. It therefore seems reasonable to conclude that Morse Code speed is not a major, nor a singular, factor in determining an Amateur licensee's ability to contribute to the public good as outlined in Part 97.1 (section a). In fact the authors of the petition feel that 5 wpm in the current report and order is good enough for the lower license classes, and by logical extension their performance during emergency operations, acceptable. My argument is if 5 wpm is fine for the majority of Amateur licensees (excluding Amateur Extra Class), then it should be good enough for ALL (including Amateur Extra Class) Amateur licensees. The petitioners also ignore the fact that for those who enjoy using Morse Code will continue to do so, and while using Morse Code will be improving their Morse Code speed beyond the 5 wpm test requirement

Finally the petition's authors make a big point about how the 20 wpm test requirement contributes to efficient communication by Morse Code. The authors conveniently ignore the fact that once tested an Amateur NEVER has to pass another Morse Code test to continue to renew their license. Without periodic testing there is no way to gauge the readiness of the collective Amateur Extra Class group of licensees to employ their 20 wpm Morse Code skill. In fact numerous Amateur Extra Class licensees seldom use their Morse Code skill after testing, and for some never.

My argument therefore is there is nothing to lose by leaving the Morse Code test requirement at the new 5 wpm in the released report and order. The petitioners failed to demonstrate that 20 wpm Morse Code testing meets the guide lines of Part 97.1 (section b, c, and d), and without periodic testing, an Amateur Extra Class licensee is capable of operating at 20 wpm during emergency operations in Part 97.1 (section a). Further more I believe the major reason the request was made to maintain the 20 wpm Morse Code requirement is an attempt to maintain a level of class (in the social and not license level context) distinction which I see as being disruptive and counter productive to the basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service.

Respectfully Yours,

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