

Comment to GN Docket 12-91,  
April 7, 2012

Question 2(a) asks, in part,

“What are the effects of unreasonable and unnecessary restrictions on the amateur radio community's ability to use the Amateur Radio Service? Specifically, do these restrictions affect the amateur radio community's ability to respond to disasters, severe weather, and other threats to lives and property in the United States?”

My comment:

I live in a community with strong restrictions preventing any outdoor antennas on my single family property. I was active in radio, specifically HF radio, before moving to this neighborhood for family reasons (reasons that trump any radio needs) but since moving I have not been active and my station is inoperable.

I made some attempts at indoor antennas but don't have the time or inclination to go to great lengths to overcome the significant disadvantage to communication capability that this presents. Simply put, the hobby isn't enjoyable for me under such conditions and I've abandoned radio over the last 3 years under my HOA.

My equipment, when operable, is capable of battery operation. Allowance of a simple wire antenna across my yard would have me back active in the hobby, 'playing radio' when I can while meeting other family needs.

If I were active in radio today, I might be of value in a local emergency that requires backup communication. If I were active today I would be practiced and current in my operating knowledge, I'd have an operable station with a tested antenna and a backup power plan and I'd be willing to engage that station to help my community if needed.

**Under the current HOA regulations that have my equipment in boxes, I guarantee I will NOT be able to offer any such help.** My capacity to help is boxed with my station.

I believe that a reasonable compromise of HOA rights in order to unlock the existing 'install base' of latent radio capability would be of overall value to society. It would not cost society anything – in my case, the talent and equipment already exists – and would result in a near-immediate benefit as I (and others) would simply go outside and throw up a wire antenna to become active in the hobby again. Further, such a compromise might encourage future capability and capacity as new entrants to the hobby are enabled, not restricted, from participation where they live.

So I believe the net result of this simple compromise will be an immediate increase in the capacity of available backup emergency communications across the country but especially in the more densely populated areas where such restrictions are more likely to exist.

Jay Horman KA3JLW