



ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

Office of the President
225 Main St.
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October 3, 2006

Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445-12th Street, S.W., Eighth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 04-140; Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's
Rules Governing the Amateur Service

Dear Chairman Martin:

As President of ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio, I am writing to you on behalf of the more than 650,000 licensees of the Commission in the Amateur Radio Service. We need your help in addressing a very frustrating and protracted delay in resolving the above-referenced docket proceeding.

The subjects of this docket proceeding are varied; it consolidated a series of petitions for rule making, proposing largely unrelated, very minor service rule changes that are each essentially non-controversial. The rule changes proposed are in the nature of a "biennial review" of the Amateur Service Rules. Though non-controversial, there are several proposals in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making in this proceeding (including RM-10413 and RM-10313) that will greatly improve the efficiency of Amateur Radio's use of the high frequency (HF) spectrum; facilitate emergency communications capabilities; and permit the use of efficient new technology for remote control of fixed Amateur stations; a capability which is vital in wide-area, Amateur Radio disaster communications, such as those provided in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Rita a year ago.

However, the anticipated and long-overdue Report and Order in this proceeding seems to be stalled for no reason whatsoever. *The oldest of the petitions that make up this proceeding (RM-10313) dates back to May 1, 2001, well more than five years ago!* The Notice of Proposed Rule Making was released April 15, 2004, two and one-half years ago. Frankly, this is not responsive government. The Commission is asked for very little by the Amateur

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Service, and our performance during recent disasters amply justifies facilitation of these relatively minor rule changes which will nevertheless enhance the ability of Amateur Radio stations to react in emergency communications circumstances.

In February of this year, ARRL representatives met with Fred Campbell of your office, who assured them that this docket proceeding was not held up by any substantive issue, but rather suffered from the “crisis du jour” problems that inevitably confront the Commission. Since then, however, correspondence addressed to Mr. Campbell, and to Wireless Bureau staff (including the acting Chief and the Chief of Staff) inquiring as to the status of this proceeding, has gone unanswered. I urge you to release the Report and Order that we understand has been drafted and ready for Commission consideration for more than a year now.

I will appreciate your anticipated response to this correspondence.

Yours very truly,

Joel M. Harrison
President

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