

Report of the Executive Committee
To the ARRL Board of Directors
January, 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Minutes of the October 1, 2011, meeting of the EC were distributed to you via ODV:20256.

In the second half of 2011, the Executive Committee had fewer FCC items to work on but they were important ones. The committee reviewed and approved a Petition for Reconsideration [ODV:20374] of the still-inadequate BPL Rules announced by the FCC after lengthy delay since the court's order.

The committee also reviewed and approved a filing opposing the Anchorage VEC's petition for a waiver to allow examination element credit for expired Amateur Radio operator licenses [ODV:20141]. The opposition was carefully phrased to preserve all the Board's options in determining a policy on the underlying petition, should it become the basis for an NPRM in the future.

The committee has reason to believe that the Anchorage VEC may petition the FCC to change the Rule requiring the physical presence of three Volunteer Examiners at test sessions, in order to accommodate applicants living in very remote and sparsely-populated areas such as may be found in Alaska. Please see Appendix A of this report, which states what we believe such a petition might propose. The members of the Executive Committee have not expressed any support for changing the Rule, and their concerns are presented in the Appendix. Given the importance of maintaining the integrity of the license examination process and given the fact that the requirement for three examiners to be present in the room during examinations has been in place for more than 25 years, the EC considers it essential for all Directors to have their say in evaluating the idea of making a change. Again, there is no petition on file with the FCC at this time so we are still speaking in hypothetical terms.

With regret, the EC decided not to petition for reconsideration of the "one emission at a time per channel" aspect of the 5 MHz proceeding, ET Docket 10-98. The ARRL had objected to that in our comments in the proceeding. However, before the Report & Order [see ODV:20324] was released, we were informed by the NTIA that this point was absolutely non-negotiable. Because the Rule is absurd from any rational spectrum management point of view, we may expect push-back from the membership wanting to know why we didn't petition for reconsideration. The reason is simple: we knew such a petition would have been DOA.

In line with the Board's decision to approve Minutes promptly after the meeting they record, the EC has adopted the practice of approving our own Minutes as soon as possible following in-person meetings.

I would like to thank the members of the 2011 EC for all their good work during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Craigie N3KN