

**Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee on
Broadcasting (B-TAC)**

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
ON NOVEMBER 30, 2009.**

Final Minutes
BTAC Meeting
30 November 2009
1000-1600 hrs, Ottawa

Attendance

NAME	DEPARTMENT	NAME	COMPANY
Marc Dupuis	IC-DGEPS/DGGPN	Ed Bogdanowicz	BCRI
Paul Vaccani-Chair	IC	Wayne Stacey	CAB
Don MacMillan-Secretary	IC	Monica Auer	CACTUS
Jean-Marie Boilard	IC	Catherine Edwards	CACTUS
Denis Bergeron	IC	Robin Jackson	CACTUS
Jack Dadourian	IC	Harrie Jones	CHUM Radio
John Dexter	IC	David Teasdale	CJMQ
Martin Dumas	IC	Michel Mathieu	Communications MM
Khiem Lê	IC	Jack Hoepfner	Corus Entertainment
Lorne Toll	IC	Gord Neilson	DEM Allan & Assoc.
Howard Wang	IC	Kerry Pelser	DEM Allan & Assoc.
Ahmad Youness	IC	Stephanie Kepman	NCCRA (CHUO-FM)
Sylvain Faucher	IC-Quebec	Kevin Matthews	NCCRA
Peter Hsiung	IC-Ontario	Pierre Labarre	PLA Ltd.
François Lefebvre	CRC	Kirk Nesbitt	Rogers
Jeff Conrad	CRTC	François Gauthier	Spectrum Expert Inc.
Michèle Guillet	CRTC	Jim Moltner	Teknyx
Mitch Jevtovic	Nav Canada	Joseph Sadoun	YRH
Martin Levert (see note)	CBC/Radio Canada	Gerald Bergin	Consultant
Pascal Marcoux (see note)	CBC/Radio Canada	Bill Dormer	Consultant
		John Feltmate	Consultant
		David Keeble	Consultant
		Arie Lubienietzky	Consultant
		Doug Macaulay	Consultant
		Tom Young	Consultant

Note: For future BTAC meetings, Martin Levert will replace Pascal Marcoux.

1) Chairman's Opening Remarks

Paul Vaccani welcomed all visitors and all introduced themselves.

2) Opening comments by Marc Dupuis, Director General (DGEPS-DGEPN)

At the end of August 2009, with the retirement of Vassilios Mimis, a restructuring of 2 branches took place. The terrestrial broadcast portion of the Broadcast, Multimedia Planning and Technical Policy Branch (formerly under Mimis) merged with the Broadcast Operations Branch

(Vaccani). Paul Vaccani now directs this combined group, Broadcast Engineering Branch (DBE) which reports to the Director General Engineering Planning and Standards (DGEPS-DGEPN).

The following questions were posed to Marc Dupuis:

Question #1: Canada/US Agreement on Television

Is Canada legally bound by this agreement (either the temporary arrangement or the eventual official document) to the conversion date of 31 August 2011 that binds Canada to the termination of analog television and conversion to DTV?

DG Answer:

While the words of this agreement have been fully negotiated, it has not yet been ratified. It cannot come into force before 31 Aug 2011, but in theory it can always come into force later. As far as the interim agreement, it is in force until the final agreement is ratified. So explicitly, there is nothing that binds us to 31 Aug 2011. However, that said, there is a moral obligation upon the Department, having negotiated in good faith with the Americans. Should there be small adjustments to be made to this date, this could be considered.

As you know, this agreement is only concerned with the territory within 360 kms of the border, therefore, anything that is outside 360 kms is of no concern to the US. In Canada, we could conceivably continue to allow analog TV north of this 360 line while just below this line, there might be a digital station. We would have to look at this on a case-by-case basis.

Question #2 : Comment on Pelmorex Communications Inc,

DG Answer

CRTC made a decision recently to allow Pelmorex to develop an aggregation and dissemination system by which public alerting messages would be made available to he broadcasters and then carried to the Canadian public. It is a file that we were quite involved with before Pelmorex came to the table with their proposal. (Earlier systems were CanAlert and NPAS.) We are working very closely with Public Safety Canada so that we hear the comments and concerns of both TV and radio broadcasters, BDUs, Campus/Community Associations and provincial reps (eg. EMOs or similar groups), as to how this system will work. We plan on hosting an information session with Public Safety Canada on 6 January 2010, as the system has to go on-line in June 2010. Marc asked for permission to use the BTAC attendees list, in order to invite all concerned. All agreed.

[Post BTAC edit: This meeting took place in Toronto on 27 January 2010.]

A supplementary question was asked whether this decision to carry Pelmorex, effective June 2010, was mandatory or voluntary. Marc responded that he believed that it was voluntary, but this information is in the Commission decision. The Pelmorex aggregation/dissemination system itself needs to be operational by June 2010.

3) Approval of Agenda: approved as circulated

Paul Vaccani invited all interested parties to linger after the close of this BTAC for a discussion on the "Process of Applying for DTV".

4) Review of Draft Minutes of previous BTAC meeting (12 May 2009, prepared by Lorne Toll): Approved as circulated.

5) Matters Arising:

a) Glossary: Industry Canada committed itself to create a glossary of acronyms that are used in the BTAC minutes.

[After our BTAC meeting, it was noted that such a glossary of acronyms already exists.

The English version is at: www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ic1.nsf/eng/00069.html#v

The French version is at: www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ic1.nsf/fra/00069.html#v]

b) In response to questions from 2 new participants (CACTUS-Canadian Association of Campus and Community Television Users and NCCRA-National Campus and Community Radio Association) at this BTAC meeting, Paul Vaccani and Marc Dupuis summarized the roles and responsibilities of the 3 government departments involved with Canadian broadcasting. Their roles are governed by the Broadcasting Act.

i) Heritage Canada sets overall broadcasting policy

ii) CRTC issues licenses for all broadcasting operations

iii) Industry Canada is responsible for technical frequency management. IC issues a Broadcasting Certificate to a CRTC-approved licensee, when it confirms that the parameters of the broadcasting station are technically acceptable.

This BTAC committee does not undertake policy questions; BTAC is a technical advisory group. It is the role of this committee to discuss ways of using the scarce spectrum more efficiently. BTAC is concerned with finding ways to squeeze-in more stations by optimizing the protection levels and/or the planning parameters.

The Canada Gazette is the publication of the Government of Canada which documents all public information concerning the state of broadcasting. This includes all decisions of Heritage Canada, CRTC and Industry Canada, in the area of broadcasting.

Ultimately, national policy is set by the Federal Cabinet. Any group wishing to propose a change in policy has the option of making a presentation to the responsible Minister.

c) Supplementary Proof of Performance (SPP) for AM Stations

Sylvain Faucher clarified the cycle for the “supplementary proof of performance”, it is every 5 years. This will be noted in BPR2. The SPP is to be provided by the broadcaster, upon the request of Industry Canada. The request will be issued as a simple reminder letter, 12 months before the date where the SPP is required. This is not necessarily tied to the license renewal.

6) CRC Presentation on “Hybrid FM/Internet Radio”

François Lefebvre of CRC presented a PowerPoint presentation on some of the modern and future receiver devices that the public is beginning to use. In addition to conventional AM/FM receivers, broadcasts can now be received via software radios and mobile Internet devices, such as the Microsoft Zune and the Apple iPod NANO. These are grouped into the new acronym HBB, which means Hybrid BroadBand Receivers.

His presentation is currently available on: www.slideshare.net/fralef/hybrid-fm-internet-2009-v3

7. Status Reports from BTAC Subcommittees

7.1 CRTC Updates

Michèle Guillet of the CRTC gave an update on recent decisions.

In decision 2009-481, Radio Communautaire Francophone d'Ottawa (RCFO) obtained a radio licence using 94.5 MHz, which is a second-adjacent frequency to CIMF-FM (94.9 MHz). After conducting field tests, Astral agreed to allow RCFO to use 94.5 MHz from Camp Fortune.

The Commission issued a bulletin 2009-451 to remind licensees of FM radio stations that, in their applications for technical amendments for increased parameters, they must continue to demonstrate an economic or technical need for the amendments.

In January 2010, there will be a Public Hearing 2009-418 to review of the regulatory framework for community and campus radio.

The Commission has also announced a proceeding 2009-661 to review its policies for community television. As part of this proceeding, the Commission will hold a hearing commencing on 26 April 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Conference Centre, Phase IV, 140 Promenade du Portage

The Commission has published a policy to deal with Short-term Distribution Issues 2009-545 and a notice of consultation 2009-615 on a proposed licensing Framework for DTV. The new policy is expected to be issued in January 2010.

The November policy proceeding 2009-411 was completed. The subject was a group-based approach to the licensing of television services and on certain issues relating to conventional television.

The CRTC Chairman indicated his dissatisfaction with the lack of cooperation between the industry and the lack of progress made on the DTV transition.

There will be a December Public Hearing 2009-614, following a request by the Governor-in-Council, who asked for a report on the "implications and advisability of implementing a compensation regime for the value of local television signals particularly the possible impact on consumers". To allow as much consumer participation as possible, the Commission will use an on-line consultation and will make it possible to appear at the Public Hearing by videoconference.

7.2 Subcommittee SC 21 - DTV Post-Transition

The chair of this committee is Jack Dadourian. Jack presented the results of the CRC DTV Field Tests in Quebec City, held during the summer 2009. This document is attached.

CBC stated its position with regards to removal of digital Grade-B from BPR-10. CBC believes that this section should be removed from BPR-10, as well as some proposals, to minimize the impact to broadcasters of leaving those in the BPR.

Jack Dadourian explained that the Department has already received comments from CAB, CBC, Jim Moltner and others on the provisional BPR-10, which was published in August 2009. At issue was the proposed value of the digital Grade-A (urban contour or city grade) and necessity of a digital Grade-B contour. Jack indicated that the values for the urban contour have no engineering basis but they are intended to be more or less where the existing analog Grade-A contour is located. This is done for administrative convenience. Jack pointed out that since the CRTC considers the coverage and the protected noise limited bounding contour to be equivalent,

there is no need to introduce yet another contour value for service. He indicated that the placeholder for digital Grade-B will be removed from the next issue of BPR.

François Gauthier inquired about the protection of stations with under-utilized parameters. Jack clarified that stations would be protected to their maximum parameters for the foreseeable future. He also said that any policy change on this aspect would be subject to regular public consultation process before any decision.

Jack also provided some clarification about detailed interference analyses and percentage population limits. He indicated that the next version of the BPR will have a clearer text on this matter.

7.2.1 CRC Tests on Indoor Reception of DTV in the Upper VHF Band

Jack Dadourian presented the results of tests done in Quebec City in early November. He explained that, following the switch-off of analog TV in the US, there were a number of complaints regarding indoor reception in the upper VHF band (TV channels 7-13). As a result, there were concerns raised about the adequacy of the current planning parameters for the upper VHF band. Consequently, Industry Canada asked the CRC to test indoor reception of DTV channel 12 in Quebec City. The test results indicated good indoor reception at least up to 20-25 km when an appropriate antenna is used (VHF antenna for VHF reception). Actually, most locations had a perfect DTV picture compared to the simulcasting analog on channel 11. It also appears that a standard UHF antenna will not receive properly a VHF DTV channel.

Arie Lubienietzky commented on the difficulty of getting the info on the RF channel of a DTV station to decide which antenna to buy. Jack explained that there is no easy answer to this question unless the changing of channel and its impact on the viewer are advertised by the analog station before switching-off.

7.2.2 Pascal Marcoux on Field Strength requirements for DTV

Pascal presented his paper (BTAC20091130-6), which previously had been presented at the annual meeting of the CCBE (Central Canada Broadcast Engineers) in September 2009. His document can be viewed at: [www. ic.gc.ca](http://www.ic.gc.ca) (search for this file BTAC 30Nov2009 - DTVminFS.pdf)

7.3 Subcommittee SC 16 - BPR-3 FM Rules

The chair of this committee is John Dexter. He had previously distributed a document which was entitled: "Consensus of SG16 on BPR C-1-6 and 1-7" (BTAC-200901130-4). Dexter reported that: the 3rd and 4th adjacent rule modifications have been agreed upon by SC16 and were tabled by the chairman for comments by B-TAC members, comment period closing mid-January 2010.

7.4 SC 22 - Digital Radio Broadcasting

No meetings of SC22 were held since the last BTAC. The Subcommittee Chair, Don MacMillan, presented the contents of a document BTAC-20091130-7, which is included below:

“In the US, over 1600 FM stations are now broadcasting FM HD-Radio. Many of them also carry 1 or 2 other programmes in the L- and R-digital sidebands. On a recent trip to Philadelphia at the NRSC and the Radio Show in Sept. 2009, I purchased a portable FM HD-Radio at Best-Buy for \$50. I could receive about 12 FM HD-Radio stations. Of these, about half of them also broadcast digital sidebands containing totally independent programmes. The reception was very good, even inside the elevator of my hotel. The antenna is part of the earphone cord.

As far as DRB or DAB, initially 79 Canadian stations came on-air early in this decade. While some receivers were available in the beginning, the Canadian public never really adopted this technology. Now, DRB receivers are no longer sold at the retail level. At present, there is a moratorium on new licenses, as the L-band policy is under review by Industry Canada. We refer you to Suzanne Lambert (suzanne.lambert@ic.gc.ca) who is the engineer overseeing this policy review.”

NOTE: While these BTAC minutes were being prepared, the above policy document was released and can be found at: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf09750.html>
Comments are requested prior to 12 March 2010 (revised date).

7.5 SC 23 - Review Coordinates

Pascal Marcoux reported on the work of SC23. The main points were:

- IC will perform the site coordinate review process internally through the regions' inspection program.
- Modifications to coordinates will not require new engineering briefs to be completed. Current stations will be grandfathered.
- A draft procedure for site coordinate measurements is under revision by SC 23.
- SC23 has a new chair: Jean-Marie Boilard, who will pursue the current work.

7.6 Informatics

Denis Bergeron replaced Alain Leduc, who normally deals with this topic.

A question was raised by Pierre Labarre, who had difficulty in downloading a 2MB file to Industry Canada. The error message he received was “file oversized”.

[Post BTAC resolution: Subsequent to this BTAC meeting, it was determined that the problem was not the Industry Canada system, but was the users own system.]

Martin Dumas announced that the database fields NETWORK, BC_MODE and UNATTENDED were no longer used or maintained for TV stations, and the corresponding fields in the database dump would soon be populated with default values.

There were no other issues raised.

7.7 BPR Updates

Jean-Marie Boilard reported as follows:

In BPR2, supplementary proofs will now normally be requested by the Department at a frequency of every 5 years, instead of every 4 years. The wording of the paragraph B-7-1 will be modified accordingly. (This is an administrative modification.)

In BPR-3, changes will be brought to reflect the conclusions reached by SC-16, after the BTAC members comment period, which is to end by mid-January 2010.

In BPR-1, an annex will be added, as well as some text on GPS measurement methodology. Members will have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft text, before going through the Gazette process.

8) Other Business

8.1) AM Discussion

Wayne Stacey presented his opinion that the Department should consider ways to permit Canadian AM stations to increase their operating parameters by deleting or altering vacant AM allotments, especially if the original allotment had remained unused for many years. He reasoned that the useful operational life of an AM station could be extended (and this could possibly delay any future request to flip to FM, in this congested band).

Kerry Pelsler added that broadcasters proposing allotment deletions are currently required to identify replacement allotments. As this can be expensive and difficult, he asked if this requirement could be made more flexible.

Paul Vaccani responded that the Department doesn't have a blanket policy on this but treats each request on a case-by-case basis. As this topic is a concern to broadcasters, we will look at it more closely at the next BTAC meeting and try to come up with some clear-cut guidelines. All agreed that this was a reasonable approach.

8.2) Channels 5 and 6: Broadcast Maximization Committee (BMC)

Jack Hoepfner briefed BTAC on the current work of the US-based Broadcast Maximization Committee (BMC). Jack read a statement by a member, John J. Mullaney. It is attached to these BTAC minutes and recorded as document #8.

9) Next Meeting will be Tuesday, May 18, 2010 in Ottawa.

We will begin at 9:00am to accommodate the broadcast consultants who are in Ottawa for another meeting, the day earlier.

10) ANNEX: List of documents referenced at this BTAC meeting (see the following page)

ANNEX of documents distributed/presented at this BTAC meeting:

20091130-1) Draft Agenda for the current BTAC meeting on 30 Nov. 2009

20091130-2) Draft Minutes from the previous BTAC meeting on 12 May 2009

20091130-3) CAB letter to Marc Dupuis (Feb. 18, 2009)

20091130-4) Consensus of SG16

20091130-5) CAB Submission on Gazette Notice SMBR-001-09 from Wayne Stacey

20091130-6) Pascal Marcoux's presentation on "Revisiting Field Strength...for DTV"

20091130-7) SC 22- Digital Radio Broadcasting (this report included above in para. 7.4)

20091130-8) Jack Hoepfner's presentation of statement by Broadcast Maximization Committee.

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The proposal initially offered by Broadcast Maximization Committee (BMC) is doing well. It is pending in two proceedings at the FCC but there is no timeline for action on the proposal. In one proceeding, it has received support from many sectors of the broadcast industry including the Minority Media Telecommunications Committee (MMTC). That group made it the centerpiece of a Diversity Proceeding at the FCC. The FCC is very committed to its expansion of diversity in ownership of the broadcast spectrum. MMTC also made it the centerpiece of a proposal it submitted entitled Radio Rescue Initiatives this past August.

The main opposition in the US to the use of TV channels 5-6 by a digital radio system is ABC. We believe that this opposition is due to its ownership of WPVI TV which operates digitally on TV 6 in Philadelphia, PA. The NAB is afraid of losing one of its network members so the NAB is also opposing the taking of TV channels 5-6. Opposition by Maximum Service Telecasters (MST) is of no great surprise since they generally opposes anything impacting TV. For many years, MST filed in opposition to "any" waiver request involving TV channels.

The FCC is slow to learn from the past in which it reluctantly mandated that all TV receivers had to be compatible with both VHF & UHF channels (only after many of the early UHF TV pioneers went bankrupt). The FCC believes that market factors will solve many technical issues and that is why in 1999 the FCC declined to mandate the requirement that all TV receivers be compatible with both analog and the new digital format. Some 5 years later, the FCC adopted phased-in mandates that all TVs be digital compatible. This lack of foresight on the FCC's part resulted in the US government spending nearly 2 billion dollars in education of the public and subsidies of set-top converter boxes.

If we can convince the FCC to mandate that AM/FM receivers be capable of receiving digital radio signals that will go along way towards establishing a viable foothold for free over-the-air digital radio. Initially, it will benefit IBOC but once the Digital Signal Processor (DSP) is an integral part of the receiver the battle is more than half over.

North America needs to move broadcast radio towards the digital future. The move to increase the level of IBOC injection from -20 dB to -10 dB is not the best path to take. Populating TV 5-6 with digital radio stations will give the consumers a reason to move into the digital world.

It would certainly be of great help if there were some way that Canadian Broadcasters could make it known that they believe the proposed use of TV Channels 5-6 for conversion of the AM band to this spectrum is a proposal worth further exploration.

John J. Mullaney (**Jack**), Member
Broadcast Maximization Committee (**BMC**)

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