

**REPORT OF THE RF SAFETY COMMITTEE  
TO THE  
ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

January 2014

The RF Safety Committee participated in the following areas over the past six months:

1. RF Safety Committee Activities.
2. Monitoring recent scientific studies regarding RF Safety.
3. Participation in the scientific RF Safety community.
4. Administrative issues.

1 RF Safety Committee Activities

1.1 As stated in the last report, the RFSC holds the opinion that it is in the best interest of Amateur Radio to support the changes proposed in FCC 13-39A1, “Reassessment of Federal Communications Commission Radiofrequency Exposure Limits and Policies” and “Proposed Changes in the Commission’s Rules Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields.”

1.1.1 This opinion was forwarded to the ARRL staff members who were developing the ARRL comments to the NPRM/NOI.

1.1.2 The NPRM/NOI received 55 comments and 15 reply comments, as well as 43 *ex parte* and late-filed comments. The FCC is in the process of reviewing these.

2 Monitoring Scientific Studies

2.1 The Committee reviewed the following document: *DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL 2013/35/UE, Dated 26 June 2013, "On the minimum requirements for the protection of health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields) (XXth Directive of Art. 16 paragraph 1 of Directive 89/391/EEC) and repealing Directive 2004/40/EC.*

2.1.1 This latest directive of the European Union with respect to exposure to electromagnetic energy is significant in that it specifically limits itself to known immediate effects of exposure. It states that it will not consider any long term effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields “since there is currently no well-established scientific evidence of a causal relationship.”

2.1.2 The directive ties current and future exposure levels to the scientifically determined ICNIRP standard.

3 Participation in the Scientific RF Safety Community

3.1 Mr. Hare continues to serve on the ICES (IEEE) SCC-28 RF Safety Standards Committee. He generally shares the voting ballots for changes to the standards with the Committee prior to voting on them.

- 3.2 Dr. Lapin continues to testify about RF safety at zoning board hearings when cellular tower placement is being considered.
- 3.3 Dr. Lapin continues to serve as a member of the IEEE Committee on Man and Radiation, COMAR.
- 3.4 Dr. Lapin worked with an electric power company to develop a safety training program for power line workers who have to work in close proximity to power-pole mounted RF transmitters.
- 4 Administrative Issues
  - 4.1 Members of the Committee continue to review articles submitted to QST, looking for potential RF safety issues that should be dealt with prior to publication.
  - 4.2 Members of the Committee are participating in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party using a designator of “RF” and handing out 35 points per QSO.

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Chair, ARRL RF Safety Committee

**The ARRL RF Safety Committee**

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