

RSSSA Ad-Hoc Review Advisory Committee Meeting – 25 March 2020 Notes

Chatham House Rules Version

Participants:

Kuan-Wei (David) Chen, McGill and co-chair
Michel Doyon, Gov Canada – GAC, IGN Deputy Director and co-chair
Chad English, Gov Canada – NRC
Joanne Gabrynowicz, University of Mississippi
Meghan Gagnon, Gov Canada – NRCan
Wade Larson, Urthecast
Shane Laverty, Kepler Communications (alternate)
LCol Catherine Marchetti, Gov Canada – DND
Michelle Mendes, SatCan
Gord Rigby, MDA Corporation
Wolfgang Schneider, Gov Germany – DLR
Tom Zubko, New North Networks

Absent:

Isaac Holliss, Gov New-Zealand – MBIE (regrets)
Mina Mitry, Kepler Communications (regrets)
Shari Scott, Gov Canada – ISED (regrets)
Sébastien Carrière, Gov Canada – GAC, IGN Director (regrets)

Observers:

Gordon Deecker, Gov Canada – GAC
Isolda Guevara, Gov Canada – GAC
Alexandra Toma, Gov Canada-GAC

Summary: The Ad Hoc Committee Advisory Meeting of 25 March 2020 was the fourth in the series. The focus of the meeting was for GAC to obtain stakeholder input and feedback regarding changes that could be accomplished without changes to the Regulations and Act (RSSSR and RSSSA, respectively).

Agenda – 25 March 20:

1. Welcome
2. Administration items
3. changes that can be implemented without Act or Regulations changes
4. RSSSA renewal document
5. Other Business
6. Next Meeting and Adjournment

1. Welcome

Members and observers were welcomed to the meeting by the co-chairs.

2. Administration items

Notes from the January 15, 2020 meeting were not available for circulation as final. They will be circulated to the members ASAP. Notes from the February 19, 2020 meeting were approved for distribution. The agenda for the meeting was approved with no other business.

The Covid-19 virus resulted in many people working from home and the phone lines being less than reliable. Some members reported being disconnected and having to dial in again.

3. Changes that can be implemented without Act or Regulations changes.

Current efforts were summarized:

- Developing a process flowchart to outline steps in an application review as a guide to regulators.
- Developing a CPC that includes a “list of documents required” for a complete application and a description of the steps taken to consider an application or conduct an inspection.
- Reaching out through presentations at conferences and other events and inviting greater public involvement in the modernization of the Act.
- Proposing training courses for staff including the introduction to space law¹, a course given to all regulators last October, and a course that leads to greater awareness of the technical details of satellites². Training in Cybersecurity must be prominent in the future.
- Ensuring that the industry, especially new players, is aware that early contact with the regulator is both possible and encouraged.

Committee members did not suggest additional possibilities for action.

4. RSSSA Renewal

Recommendations 7 and 8 from the RSSSA Renewal document were discussed. These are: Recommendation 7 – priority access compensation, and recommendation 8 - security.

Recommendation 7:

Ensure proper compensation for priority access (as made available in the Regulations) and clarify what kinds of representations may be made by an operator and what effect such representations would have on the priority access order.

¹ See Annex 4 (Section 12.3) for a report on the Space Law training course

² Space Mission Analysis and Design

In this situation the Minister must compensate the licensee at a reasonable cost. A comparison to the US was provided, where images were purchased on an exclusive basis for a six-month period prior to being made available for sale.

Recommendation 8:

Monitor remote sensing security strategy to ensure Canada's security interests are maintained despite changing international players and evolving and divergent interests.

5. Other Business

1. Two items were mentioned for discussion at a future meeting: What is the role of GAC with respect to possible satellite transmission interference?
2. Why is GAC involved when non-EO satellite operations are added to existing ground station activities?

6. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2020 at 1:00PM Ottawa time. The main topic for discussion will be Mechanisms to Support R&D, update on class exemptions and the second draft of the CPC.