

DX Advisory Committee Semi-Annual Report

June 30, 2006

**To the American Radio Relay League
Board of Directors**

**Submitted by
Jim O'Connell, W9WU
Chairman, DX Advisory Committee
Central Division Representative**

Introduction

Recent appointments to the DXAC bring the Committee to a full complement of members for this time period.

DX and Other Issues

At the request of the Programs and Services Committee, the DXAC began a study of a Membership Services Division staff proposal regarding "A Proposal to Amend the IARU Provision of the DXCC Political Entity Rule." Under the able direction of the Committee Vice-Chair, Cliff Ahrens, K0CA, the Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed rule change and investigated the possible consequences resulting from any proposed rule amendment and the number of potential DXCC entities which might result.

The Committee determined, that the proposed criteria were possibly ambiguous and subject to differing interpretations. Subsequently, the Committee recommended an alternative proposed rule which contained criteria referring to certain geographic and political listings of the U.S. Department of State or the United Nations.

The language suggested by Vice-Chair Ahrens was adopted by a 15-1 vote of the Committee. A copy of the DXAC Final Report, submitted May 26, 2006 is attached.

The DXAC will continue to solicit feedback from the DX community on current DX issues and pass those opinions on to the P&SC and ARRL staff. We remain ready to discuss and make recommendations on any matter or issue referred to the DXAC by the P&SC or Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim O'Connell, W9WU
Chairman, DX Advisory Committee
Central Division Representative

**DXAC Final Report on
“A Proposal to Amend the IARU Provision of the DXCC Political Entity Rule”**

On February 6, 2006, the DXAC received a referral from the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) requesting that the DXAC investigate a Membership Services Division (MSD) staff proposal entitled “A Proposal to Amend the IARU Provision of the DXCC Political Entity Rule.”

The proposal contains an informative discussion of the factors considered by MSD staff in making the proposal, as follows:

“The DXCC 2000 Committee intended that the Political Entity criteria of the 1998 DXCC Rules would recognize, in an objective manner, separate or distinct status sufficient for DXCC purposes. While U.N. Member State status is perhaps the ultimate in recognition of separation, Entities exist that do not meet the U.N. or I.T.U. criteria but are still sufficiently separated politically from their parent entities for DXCC purposes.

Examples of entities that exhibit such separation are the numerous overseas countries and territories of Britain, France, Holland and Denmark and the United States. Most of these territories and others are governed or administered by a **local government**. The existence of a local government constitutes one degree of separation that we propose to form a basis for re-classification of some territories as DXCC Political Entities. A **minimum separation distance** will also help eliminate situations where certain anomalous conditions might otherwise lead to separate status (reservations, etc.). Finally, the existence of a **permanent population** will assure that the entity is consistent with what is expected of a Political Entity.”

The proposal was to add to the **DXCC Rules, “Section II. DXCC LIST CRITERIA, 1. Political Entities:”** the following:

c) The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government and is located at least 800 km from its parent.

The DXAC was specifically tasked to investigate:

- a) Significant unintended consequences resulting from the proposed rule.
- b) The number of potential DXCC Entities resulting from the rule change.

The DXAC has studied and discussed the proposed rule change and has investigated the tasks assigned to it. The DXAC was not assigned the task of expressing an opinion on the merits of the proposal, and therefore has not done so. As set out below, the Committee is suggesting alternative language be added to the proposal which the Committee believes addresses potential “unintended consequences,” which was one of the tasks assigned to the Committee.

The DXAC submits the following Final Report on the tasks assigned to it:

Task # 1: Significant unintended consequences resulting from the proposed rule:

- The proposed criteria of “permanent population” and “administered by a local government” are ambiguous, difficult to define, and subject to differing interpretations.
- To resolve the potential unintended consequences set forth in paragraph 1, the **DXAC recommends the following alternative proposed rule:**

c) The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government, and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the "permanent population" and "administered by a local government" criteria of this sub-section, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the U.S. Department of State's list of "Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty"¹ as having a local "Administrative Center"; or (b) the United Nations list of "Non-Self-Governing Territories."²

Task # 2: The number of potential DXCC Entities resulting from the rule change:

- The general consequences of adoption of the proposed Rule 1c) were clearly set forth in the proposal by ARRL MSD staff, which stated: “The proposed Political Entity Rule addition will not create new DXCC Entities directly. Rather, several Separation Entities may be reclassified as Political Entities. In turn, these reclassified Entities could result in one additional Geographical Separation Entity, since the distance to the first entity will become 350 km rather than 800 km. No more than one 350 km separation entity can be created for each Political Entity. Therefore, the effect of applying this rule to an existing Separation Entity will be to change the separation distance of the first Separation Entity associated with the reclassified Entity from 800 km to 350 km. It appears that few of these reclassifications will give rise to additional DXCC Entities. The number remains to be estimated, however.”
- In accordance with our instructions, the DXAC has conducted a general review of potential new entities resulting from the alternative proposed Rule set out above. We have not done exhaustive research of any particular possible new entities. We did not research nautical charts. From reviewing various maps and online sources, the **DXAC believes that there would be few, if any, new DXCC Entities resulting from adoption of the alternative proposed Rule.**

Date: May 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Cliff Ahrens K0CA
Vice-Chair & Midwest Div. DXAC Rep.

Jim O'Connell W9WU
Chairman & Central Div. DXAC Rep

¹ <http://www.state.gov/s/inr/rls/10543.htm>

² <http://www.un.org/depts/dpi/decolonization/trust3.htm>