

CRC POSITION

T3 LETTER BALLOT

(Draft) Revision of A/53B Annex D Relating to an EVSB Transmission Mode

The Communications Research Centre Canada (CRC), while being a Government Research Centre, is an independent R&D organization. It provides research results to broadcasters, equipment manufacturers, consultants and academia in Canada and other countries.

The proposed amendment was considered essentially from its technical merits point of view. However the CRC is quite aware of its potential impact on broadcasting service provision and equipment manufacturing, neither of which has a direct impact on CRC.

The proposed revision is in response to the expressed need of broadcasters for reception improvements and additional service capabilities of the ATSC television system.

In CRC's view the proposed revision provides some improvements to reception, but only very limited pedestrian and mobile reception capability, one of the expressed needs. On the negative side, is the impact on the quality of HDTV programs, since some of the channel capacity has to be used for this "robust mode" of transmission. CRC recognizes, that the use of this robust mode is optional and if the quality of HDTV images is of paramount importance a broadcaster may opt not to use this mode. In the future more efficient video compression techniques are likely to emerge. Therefore quality of HDTV in a reduced channel capacity may become a non-issue.

Since the time this improvement work was started, other solutions to improve coverage and reception in fixed locations have been worked on. The ability of receivers to work in a multipath environment has been significantly improved. It has been shown that coverage can be improved with low power On-Channel-Repeaters (OCR) or synchronized transmitters.

While the proposed revision does not solve all problems, it nevertheless provides yet another backward compatible tool for the improvement of the performance of the ATSC system.

With these considerations CRC has decided to **APPROVE** the proposed revision solely based on technical merits.

Metin Akgun
VP, Broadcast Technology Research
27 May 2003