

**Subsection 4.—Federal Government Civil Telecommunications
and Electronics Services**

Telecommunications policy, planning and operations under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transport are administered by the Government Telecommunications Policy and Administration Bureau and the Telecommunications and Electronics Branch. The functions and responsibilities of the Bureau may be summarized as: (1) development of policy and plans with respect to national and international telecommunications by satellites, cables and other media including relations with the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation, and participation in the work of the International Telecommunication Union and its subsidiary organs; (2) forward planning for the development of economical and effective telecommunications facilities to meet the administrative and general needs of Federal Government departments and agencies throughout Canada, compatible with the improvement of public services, and to arrange for these facilities; (3) planning of emergency measures and administration of the Emergency National Telecommunication Organization (ENTO); (4) development and maintenance within the Bureau of a centre of competence in the latest telecommunications technology; and (5) administration of the Radio Act and Regulations including allocation and assignment of radio frequencies, radio provisions of the Canada Shipping Act, Ship Station Radio Regulations, the Telegraph Act and the Regulations thereunder covering the licensing of overseas submarine cables. The Branch is responsible for: (1) research into and development of new and improved communication and electronic equipment and systems in support of aeronautical, marine, meteorological and other services; (2) construction, maintenance and operation of radio aids to marine and air navigation and of radio communication stations including procurement of the necessary equipment; and (3) administration of the leasing of land-line telecommunication circuits, equipment and related facilities for all services of the Department.

Licensing and Regulation of Radio Stations.—Under the Radio Act and the Canada Shipping Act it is provided that radio stations employing a form of Hertzian wave transmission, including television and radar, be licensed by the Department of Transport unless otherwise exempted by regulation. Licensing, which provides basic control over the right to establish a radio station, involves the assigning of specific frequencies to each station. Frequencies are assigned to many types of services on a shared non-interference basis. Engineering briefs covering the selection or change of frequency, amount of power and design of the directional antenna system must be approved by the Department of Transport and, before a new broadcasting station can be licensed or before modifications can be made to an existing station, notification is sent to the signatory countries of the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement, in the case of AM broadcasting stations, and to the United States under the Canada-USA Television Agreement and the Canada-USA FM Agreement, for television and FM broadcasting stations, respectively. The setting of standards for the equipment, installation and operation of a station provides control for efficient use of the radio spectrum. A further control is the requirement that operating personnel be subject to examination and certification.

From time to time, the Department of Transport establishes standards governing the technical suitability of radio equipment for licensing in Canada. These standards, which are called Radio Standards Specifications and Standard Radio System Plans, are issued by the Department in co-ordination with representatives of industry. Before a licence may be issued, the radio equipment to be used must comply with the technical requirements of the applicable Radio Standards Specification, in which case they will be listed in the Radio Equipment List as type-approved or technically acceptable. Briefs supporting a request for technical appraisal of a radio apparatus may be prepared and submitted by a duly qualified engineer or the necessary tests may be conducted, for a fee, at the Depart-