

This comment is in reference to BPL (broadband over power lines).

>

>I think that PLC (broadband over the power lines or BPL) is a very BAD
>idea. It has been tried in other countries and wiped out HF communications
>there. In those countries the scheme was abandoned or modified as to not
>interfere (with the ham bands). I for one, have a hard enough time getting
>the power company to clean up their act when they interfere with my HF
>station through their ill-maintained utility infrastructure!

>

>Almost all HF communications are done via weak signals propagated via the
>ionosphere. If this broadband over power line scheme were put in effect,
>it would make HF communications difficult, if not impossible. It could
>easily become a global problem especially during years of high sunspot
>numbers (enhanced HF propagation). It could render long-range
>communications using simple point-to-point equipment useless.

>

>Even at very low power levels it has potential to become a severe problem.
>I have communicated over thousands of miles using only milliwatts of power
>and simple wire antennas. I can hear static crashes from lightning storms
>on the other side of the country and even hear naturally occurring radio
>noise from the other planets in our solar system! With the nature of HF,
>the way it propagates and the way it's used, BPL has the potential to
>render useless a valuable tool for communication.

>

>Not only would you have hundreds of thousands of ham radio operators fuming
>(many more world-wide); it would affect all other users of HF. The
>spectrum below 30 MHz is too precious a resource to blunder away with this
>shortsighted idea.

>

>There must be another way. The immensely useful first 30 MHz of the
>spectrum must be protected.

>

>Thank you,

>

Lance K. Ropke
11 North "J" STREET
Pensacola, Fl. 32501-4429
ke4fmk@bellsouth.net