

Regarding the FCC's consideration of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL), as proposed:

As an amateur radio operator of over 25 years, **I urge in the strongest possible terms that the FCC deny deployment of BPL technology.**

The proposed BPL technology, if implemented on even modest scales, threatens the livelihood of amateur radio. The high frequency spectrum interference generated by BPL, and apparently being understated in industry test reports, will impact all but the strongest of signals, eliminating abilities of amateur radio operators to hone skills in weak signal communications. These very weak signal communications skills are the most necessary in emergency operations, disaster assistance, and public service operations.

I implore the FCC to consider the 'big picture':

- The amateur radio service has existed as long as radio itself. Broadband internet is a (relatively) fledgling technology which can and should evolve *around* existing HF communications, not by bulldozing its way through them,
- The amateur radio service will be called upon to act to restore communications when the power lines which BPL will use are lying on the ground after a hurricane or earthquake.
- The amateur radio service relies on incidental "day-to-day" operations of hobbyists to gain experience which will be used in emergencies. BPL, if implemented, will deny the day-to-day operations of many amateurs using HF, deteriorating their operating skills.
- The HF operating privileges are a key attractor of persons to amateur radio. BPL is a major threat to those privileges. If implemented, BPL would cause many existing amateur radio operators to lose interest in the hobby as a result. Countless would-be hams will see little benefit in becoming licensed if the HF spectrum is rendered useless by BPL emissions. The end result could well be the virtual extinction of amateur radio, and the loss of a treasured national resource.
- The amateur radio service exists without broad-based government assistance or subsidy. We are, by definition, amateurs, so no revenue is generated with which we can afford to hire lobbyists, attorneys, or public affairs consultants. We are relying on the sensibilities of the FCC to mediate and find a way to preserve amateur radio.

Amateur radio should be viewed much like the United States' Strategic Oil Reserves. Both are commodities in place to help the country through times of trouble. Both are very reliable, very cheap 'insurance' against unforeseeable circumstances. And, unfortunately, both are threatened from time to time by short-sighted industrial or political influences which would squander them to make a profit.