

I am dismayed to read that the PLC technology has the potential to destroy HF amateur radio as it exists today. I am a relatively new amateur licensee, and do not yet have HF privileges, but I am working hard at upgrading my license. I have gotten a taste of HF operation through a Ham radio club, and I'm excited to upgrade. I love being able to talk around the world using amateur radio. I hope that I'll still be able to do that. I strongly urge the FCC not to approve PLC without guarantees that it will not adversely affect existing licensed services. I am also concerned at the safety of having that much RF energy radiating from every power line. Power lines should be used for power, and low power data lines used for data. Thirdly, if PLC radiates networking signals into the surrounding area, what effect will this have on security? This problem can partially be alleviated with encryption, but it could be broken. For example, WEP, the encryption built into WiFi (IEEE 802.11b) has been shown to be easily crackable.

There are several open concerns with PLC, and I urge the FCC to tread carefully.