

I am writing to strongly discourage the use of PLC in the US.

The costs to society, in terms of very serious interference to listeners of shorewide broadcasts, as well as to amateur radio are significant.

These costs do not seem to me to be offset by the benefits of the technology. As a means of bringing network connections to the home, it is at best a stopgap measure, because the bandwidth that is available is quite limited, in comparison to distribution by coaxial cable (cable modem technology).

Network usage patterns are heading towards higher and higher bandwidth, with large images, video, and streaming audio. With the ever-increasing desire of the network clients for bandwidth, we will eventually wind up with optical fiber utilities, or perhaps local microwave delivery.

For network distribution inside the home, there is no need for BPL, as the 2.4 GHz 11 mb technology has now become widespread and inexpensive, and it, for the most part, does not interfere with other services.

Usage and testing in other countries has shown that BPL has serious adverse effect on HF communication, by causing strong interference to reception.

It seems to me to be inequitable to destroy the long established public resource of HF communication for the short-term financial interests of a narrow sector of the economy.

I am also surprised that the military is not fighting this issue. The military is still very protective of their HF allocations, and I would expect this is because they would like to keep open the option of using HF communications for unanticipated emergencies.

HF communication is very important in natural and man made disasters when telephones and VHF/UHF repeaters are not working. In the aftermath of 9/11 amateur affiliates using HF provided communications to national guard units that coordinated ambulance activities.

If HF as a medium of radio communication is destroyed by the advent of BPL, the widely dispersed and well organized supply of volunteers able to provide emergency communications that amateur radio provides will fade away.