

Dear Sirs & Madams:

I have been reading with quite some interest the proposals for BPL (or PLC, whichever term you prefer) and am concerned about several points, not just limited to PL generated RF hash over a large portion of the RF spectrum.

First point, as mentioned, is the concern of extreme RFI over a substantial portion of the RF spectrum. As an amateur radio operator, I have encountered RF hash generated by power utilities which have taken months to have repaired. As most utilities have little equipment (or seemingly so) to test for such problems, the spectre of additional RF interference due to INTENTIONALLY generated RF seems overwhelming. As a powerline makes a lovely antenna, I can imagine that the amount of power required to support such an effort would almost totally shut down HF communications, or at least create such a "wall of noise" so as to effectively end amateur radio in its current incarnation.

Another problem will be privacy. If every device sitting on the power grid is, in fact, connected to the Internet, what is there to keep unscrupulous companies and individuals from violating privacy of common citizens? Today, even the might of the US Government cannot stop SPAM type email...how can you stop those determined to spy on this country, commit crimes, etc via the internet when such access is available, nay, FORCED on everyone desiring to be connected to AC mains? Hmmm..... a chip installed in a device...sending your actions back to the company which built it.....I can see Microsoft loving that one! Ponder the reaction to the "phone home" setup in certain Microsoft products, and then multiply that by several orders of magnitude.

As the spam mail problem as been already mentioned, the last point, though not one of which many would ponder, is that best served through an illustration.

Imagine wanting to sit on a beach and watch a sunset, or watch the stars at night. You head out to your favorite watching space to do so, but find a haze covering the sky. You try again the next night, but find the same thing, day after day. Some say, "well, just drive to the mountains and see these things there!" Yet, these were things which you used to be able to enjoy, sitting on your own property. Now, all of that is gone.

The same thing may well happen with BPL. The "RF View" will not only be obscured, but may be so permanently. Does the FCC want to be responsible for that kind of pollution? My voice may mean nothing to you, yet I do indeed feel as the "voice crying out in the wilderness..."; I just hope there's still a bit of wilderness around for the future.

Sincerely Yours;
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