

As a licenced amateur radio operator (N4IB) involved in HF communications, I am deeply concerned about the potential for inteference from broadband over power line. BPL will inject signals onto the power lines that overlap the entire HF spectrum used by hams, shortwave listeners and others. Medium voltage distribution lines make reasonably effective antennas at these frequencies and even low-power BPL signals will likely propogate over considerable distances. Hams and others who use HF rely on sensitive receivers and high gain antennas because they are often trying to copy very weak signals from other parts of the world. Even a low-level BPL signal in the area is likely to mask these weaker signals, severely limiting our ability to communicate at these frequencies. Long distance HF radio communications also requires the use of high power transmitters, which could provide interference to BPL users. High Frequency radio is the ONLY medium that provides long distance communications with NO infrastructure. At times of emergency or disaster, when other communications methods are overloaded or damaged, HF radio is the only resource that still works. Many Red Cross, Salvation Army and other emergency organizations have HF radio capability for this reason, and their stations are usually operated by Radio Amateurs. Electric utilities, telephone companies and other critical infrastructure entities also rely on HF radio for back-up communications. BPL solutions must be evaluated with a keen awareness of their interference potential. Broadband is being provided to millions of Americans via cable modems and DSL. We must make sure that we balance the need to provide yet another broadband alternative with the needs of HF radio users across the US.