

PLC/BPL is the biggest threat to ham radio that has ever come along.

It has the potential to render wide swaths of HF spectrum useless due to RFI. It poses perhaps more of a threat to the future of ham radio communications than anything else.

One would think that other users of the HF spectrum (the US government in particular) would object to such interference. However, in a recent ARRL article it was reported:

"The FCC has declared BPL/PLC as a top priority for its Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) in 2003.

Currently, the FCC is investigating the feasibility of PLC in the US, but I believe the FCC is more attuned to the PLC companies than they are to the incumbent users of the spectrum.

In Japan, where PLC systems have been in operation, amateurs complained so much about the RFI that the PLC companies were forced to place 30 dB notches in the PLC frequencies to protect the amateur allocations. Perhaps this is an avenue that bears investigation in the US.