

I am requesting the FCC to NOT authorize Broadband Over Power Line (BPL), Docket - 03 - 104. From my background as both a registered professional electrical engineer and as a FCC licensed Amateur Radio operator (W6PSK) I am very concerned that BPL will cause serious interference to users of the HF spectrum, such as Amateur Radio operators. Power transmission lines were not designed to be HF transmission lines and as a result they would be far from ideal--especially in that their wide-spaced, unshielded, and not carefully balanced construction will result in a substantial portion of the RF energy being radiated and causing interference to other services. The HF radio spectrum is a very special resource. These are the only frequencies where non-line-of-sight communications can be conducted without using sophisticated satellite repeaters. In these times of heightened awareness of the need for emergency communications we must remember that HF communications provide a unique, decentralized, robust, long-range communications capability. Modern technology has made thousands of megahertz of electromagnetic and optical spectrum available for low cost short-range communications which is the target of BPL.

Finally I would note as that many Amateur Radio operators are turning to lower and lower power levels to avoid causing interference to their neighbors, it is becoming more and more important to avoid having interfering signals in the portions of the spectrum allocated to amateurs.