

More and more homeowners association covenants are precluding amateur radio operators from installing adequate outdoor antennas. The result is that many are forced to install antennas in the attic, on the deck, or around the eaves of their homes. This places the antenna in close proximity to the power wiring inside the home and will greatly increase the probability of interference from and to BPL.

HF users deal with noise from such things as arcing power lines, light dimmers, and defective door bell transformers on a regular basis. These can all be traced to their source and the noise eliminated. HF users deal with static crashes on a regular basis but this noise is only a temporary problem. BPL on the other hand will be present 24-hours a day, 7-days a week and there will be little if anything that the typical HF user can do to eliminate it. This is especially true if the user is restricted in the placement of his antenna to locations near to the power wiring.

There is a significant potential for interference to the BPL from amateur HF transmitters. Regardless of the technical cause, the public will perceive the interference as the fault of the amateur. This will result in disagreements between neighbors and homeowner associations who attempt to further restrict amateur operations in their areas. The end result will be that many amateur operators will just have to go off the air rather than fight it, even though it is technically not their fault.

I believe that BPL is the wrong approach to providing broad band access. The potential to corrupt the HF spectrum (an international, limited resource) is too great a price to pay. The cable companies are expanding their fiber optic networks. This appears to be the ideal solution in that it is capable of providing broad band and other services to the home while at the same time eliminating the potential for interference to or from other radio services. I believe the FCC should support the best technical solutions rather than the least expensive. In my opinion, BPL represents a very poor technical solution to expanding broad band access for the public.