

I am a licensed amateur radio operator, K4QET, and I wish to ask the commission to preclude the use of power lines to transmit broadband internet signals.

Amateur Radio is a valuable resource that must be protected. For example, during Y2K, a local group of hams worked closely with the local police in coordinating response to any possible problems. We set up stations, antennas, made extensive police contacts and were ready and willing to handle the problems.

Additionally, several times a week, hams meet in coordinated nets on 75 meters, 40 meters, and other HF frequencies to prepare for emergencies in Virginia. Conditions are bad enough to reliable communication with natural interference from lightning storms, let alone any additional signals from power lines.

Instituting broadband over power lines would probably make emergency communications impossible on some bands. Especially in these terrorist times, I think this is not a good idea.

The present FCC Part 15 limits for this technology already can result in substantial interference potential to amateur frequencies.

BPL systems that radiate on wide swaths of spectrum and that occupy entire neighborhoods have greater interference potential than localized systems, such as switching power supplies or electric motors.

And in recognition of the ham radio resource, which is often the first and sometimes only communication in disasters, the FCC has promised to protect licensed users of the spectrum. Please remember that promise, it was made for good consideration.

Thank you for your time,

Michael Rutkaus