

I am an amateur radio operator, licensed as NZ9Z, and I am very concerned about the proposal to encourage Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) -- or, more properly, Power Line Carrier (PLC). I use the HF bands and I understand that BPL/PLC as being developed uses 1.7 to 80 mHz, and perhaps even higher frequencies.

I am very concerned that BPL/PLC will radiate over a broad portion of the radio spectrum, and, because neighborhoods are literally enveloped by local power line grids, amateur radio operators will be subject to a much greater potential for interference than current, more localized sources of interference, such as electric motors and touch-activated lamps. The present Part 15 limits already present a substantial potential for interference to the amateur radio service.

Amateur radio is a very valuable national resource that must be protected, especially in the post 9/11 era. Amateur radio operators have a long history of using our radio equipment in emergencies, both local and regional, to provide communications for both government and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) when other forms of communication prove unreliable or inadequate. As a member of my local RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service), I am set up and ready here to communicate with the Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center (EOC) should an emergency occur. I am very concerned that interference from BPL/PLC could hamper emergency communications during a future local, regional or national emergency.

Lastly, the FCC has promised to protect licensed users of the radio spectrum. As a licensed amateur radio operator, I urge you to adhere to this promise. Much testing needs to be done to evaluate the effects of emissions from BPL/PLC as currently allowed, before the FCC allows or promotes any expansion of those rules.

I thank you for allowing me to comment on the potentially serious effects on the amateur radio service from BPL/PLC.

Sincerely, John R. Meyer, NZ9Z