

I am concerned about the BPL initiative due to interference concerns and the fact that the data thruptut is not sufficient to merit another method of broadband.

I am both an Amature Radio operator as well as a systems integrator. In my job, I advise clients and even the average joe on broadband systems to meet their needs. Lets look at the potential bandwidth of BPL. There is a potential of 20mb/s throughput to a specific area. Granted this would be somewhat viable in rural areas, such as the reservations that my company services regularly, but there are many other "Better" options than BPL. Lets look at a typical reservation around albuquerque nm. We will use the pueblo of Tsiya. This is a group of people that do not fully understand the limitless usages of the internet. Some would say "All the more reason for BPL, " This is not the case. Most of the people only want a limited usage of the internet. The school on the Tsiya pueblo allows the people of the pueblo to come in and use their T1 line whenever. I have spent a lot of time out there, and have even confirmed with the librarian that there are only two people who come in there about once a month to use the internet. (Besides the kids.) There really is not a viable market on reservations. The few people could look at sky based broadband.

Lets say that you bring this technology to forberance just for the rural areas. Next thing you know the cities will want this technology. Splitting 20mb/s over several hundred users in an area decreases these numbers dramatically. Just the poor quality of the equipment in use by the power company in albuquerque could cause you to lose most of the bandwidth by the time it gets to an area.

Speaking of poor equipment, the powerlines act like big antennas. Any spurious signals produced by the faulty equipment they use will transmit through out the entire city. This is assuming that the power companies use heavy filtering even further that the part 15 rules specify. If they barely meet the 30uv rule, there would be a S9+16 (If i did my math right...) reading of interference on whatever frequency the harmonics would be on. This is assuming the Home Plug protocol or some subsect is used. This poses a threat to any and all radio services located below 30mhz. How can the FCC in good conscience promote this technology? In areas that this is being tried there are many amature operators complaining about the interference.

I cannot explain the problems as elloquiently as I am sure others have already done. As an amature radio operator, I believe that we should protect licenced services from interference from unlicensed emmissions and to promote the public's best interests. Is BPL in their best interest? I do not believe so. Price gouging would be sure to follow based on the history of the utility industry. They are already a natural monopoly. Why give them more power to toy with the average consumer? (Sorry. Got on my soap box...) Interference to users below 30mhz is not in the publics best interest at all. Nor is it in the best interests of the US government and national security. Think of the possibilities for hackers. As a systems integrator, I fear for my customer's data. Some fool puts a connection device to tap into the phone line and runs a rj45 to their second network jack and sends sensitive data to god only knows who. Now that is a real danger to my clients, to government facilities and anybody else with sensitive data.