

The following is a set of comments from James E. Bromley, an amateur radio operator (Extra Class licensee - callsign K7JEB) and practicing electrical engineer (BSEE, Univ of Texas at El Paso, 1972) on the Commission's ET Docket No. 03-104

Amateur Radio led me into my career in engineering by providing a realizable goal - obtaining an FCC license and operating my own station in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS). This goal was realistic only because the ARS operated with relatively low transmitter power levels in an environment free from external noise sources. The current proposals to implement Broadband over Power Line (BPL) will increase that external noise to an intolerable level and require ARS licensees to use uneconomical power levels for even short-range contacts. This will place the ARS out of reach for younger licensees and discourage them from using the ARS as a stepping-stone to higher levels of technical accomplishment - a very undesirable outcome.

I have read and understand fully the findings of Mr. Ed Hare, W1RFI, of the American Radio Relay League concerning BPL. Those findings are enumerated in a Web-accessible document:

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/files/C63NovPLC.pdf>

I agree with Mr. Hare's findings both quantitatively and qualitatively.

My opinion is that the ARS cannot coexist with a BPL implementation that exceeds the current Part 15 levels, and only marginally with those levels strictly observed. The near certainty of ingress by licensed ARS emissions further convinces me that any BPL deployment will ultimately result in having to choose between the existence of ARS HF operations or BPL. If that choice is made in favor of BPL, the ARS will quickly lose its appeal as a communications medium and the United States will have lost a valuable technical and emergency communications resource.