

I have read with incredulity of the electric power industry's desire to carry broadband communication services over power lines. As a graduate electrical engineer and a licensed Amateur Radio operator (K8YC), I must state that I believe this idea must not be allowed to come to fruition, or at least not come to fruition until it can exhaustively be shown that it will not lead to broad-based interference to a multitude of radio services. Any time a high frequency signal is placed on an open wire transmission line, there is the possibility for spurious radiation from that line. Certainly a broadband service offering would entail extremely high frequencies if significant bandwidth is the goal. Radio amateurs, cable television, telephony, and broadcast radio all use coaxial cable, to "pipe" broadband signals--generally in specified frequency bands--to its destination whether it be a receiving terminal or an antenna. Even then, the frequencies being "piped" are designated for that service. If a baseband or modulated broadband offering is placed on a power transmission line, there is bound to be one or more services which will receive a radiated signal from the power lines. The pervasive nature of overhead powerlines and the likelihood of a wide radiated frequency spectrum will undoubtedly adversely affect almost all locations.

--John A. Scott, K8YC