

I am a licensed operator in the amateur radio service (K9WQ). I am extremely concerned about interference to the amateur bands from "broadband over power line" technology.

Radio spectrum is a natural resource. The spectrum allocated to amateur operators is about much more than a hobby. It also is about emergency communication in times of natural disaster or other kinds of threats to American security. Almost all countries recognize the importance of assigning bandwidth to a corps of amateur operators whose skills and equipment may be desperately needed in times of emergency.

I have grave doubts about whether harmful interference from BPL can be controlled. BPL is, frankly, ugly technology. Other technologies are available for delivering the same services while maintaining competition in the marketplace for these services.

The FCC must, at a minimum, protect allocated radio spectrum from harmful interference, as it is required by law to do.

But my preference would be to see ugly technologies such as BPL banned in this country. I find it very difficult to believe that the utilities who would like to deploy BPL technology could, or would, prevent harmful interference. The result, I fear, would be like the wanton destruction or pollution of an irreplaceable natural and international resource.

Regulation is essential. Indeed regulation is the FCC's mission and reason for being. I deplore deregulatory pressures which would trample natural resources in the name of profit.