

Gentlemen,

A great deal of possible and potential interference to other services, amateur in particular has been speculated of late, regarding BPL.

While it is indeed a good thing to use and develop technologies that will open internet access to more of the ("entitled") masses, a severe assessment of the true ultimate price to be paid for any "ready, fire, aim" policy implementation needs to prevail. In the face of huge recurring revenue, this may be being overlooked or at least minimized. It is far too easy for spectacularly credentialed lobbyists to direct us, "don't pay any attention to the man behind the curtain".

Power companies have a long history of operation. This new recurring revenue stream, obtainable with little capital investment is quite attractive. But I believe we make an enormous mistake to overlook what to me are obvious end results.

You see, past performance is the best indicator of future actions. Power companies, to a man, have an established track record of failing to undertake proactive maintenance of equipment as it relates to interference to other services. It astounds me for you to consider to let the fox watch the hen house in the BPL RFI matter with the voluminous history of virtually destroying commercial radio reception in the AM band and common SWL bands at the hands of well intentioned but do nothing before it blows up maintenance programs that allow RFI to exist unfettered. A trip by automobile while listening to the commercial AM radio band taken for any distance will convincingly provide clear and compelling evidence of this. A short wave radio will only better establish that the problem exists, only broader and farther reaching in scope. It may move occasionally, in response to relative humidity or even repair, but the repair WAS NOT INITIATED BY THE RFI. The RFI problem has, does and will reappear. Power company economics cannot result in a different outcome.

The FCC has even come to the aid of amateurs, who have themselves identified the source of RFI for the power company, to be told by the power company in essence, "we will change out a transformer, but we will expect payment from you since it only effects you". This is not "good practice", let alone the standard of "best practice" that is demanded by any BPL proposed roll out. This hokum explanation is driven by economics and shareholder betterment. The results are a disaster to the public service and emergency communications back-stop amateur radio provides. It eliminates the international good will amateur radio service is expected to deliver. It cripples our trained pool of operators.

The problem is not technology or the imagined social need for internet access gentlemen, it is the trump card of economics being played BY NECESSITY in favor of company cash flow over the unfettered destructive effects power distribution CURRENTLY HAS on others or their services - or their clients.

Respectfully,
KB5F
Orin Snook

Sent via the EV1 webmail system at mail.ev1.net