

1525 W Charlotte Ct
Nampa, ID 83686-9747
July 15, 2003

Telephone: (208) 465-7313

Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Madam or Sir:

I have been a licensed amateur radio operator for over 45 years. My station license is W5UYH. I use amateur radio to train myself to send and receive possible emergency messages by both CW and SSB modes, in the event of a communications emergency. Operation of my amateur radio station also provides personal enjoyment. It appears that both of these uses of amateur radio are now in jeopardy.

This comment is in regard to ET Docket No. 03-104, Broadband over Power Line (Access BPL). I understand the existing electrical utility lines will be used, unshielded, to transmit digital signals using radio frequencies from 2 through 80 MHz. This will create radio interference that may render useless the amateur radio bands from 3.5 to 54.0 MHz.

Even without BPL, interference from power lines is significant. In this town, Nampa, Idaho, the utility provider, Idaho Power, is either unable or unwilling to correct interference that blocks the 50,000-watt AM broadcast station, KBOI, along some streets. This station is only about 25 miles east of Nampa.

The country of Japan decided last year to not adopt BPL technology because of its interference potential. Some European countries that have BPL are experiencing interference. In the United States, there are over 637,000 people with amateur radio licenses, who can operate radio equipment in parts of the 2 through 80 MHz spectrum. Most of these people will agree that BPL interference could be detrimental to their amateur radio hobby.

Please do not deploy the Broadband over Power Line technology in the United States, as proposed in this docket.

Sincerely,

Earl R. Hutchison