

International Radio Intelligence Group

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7 June 2003

Office of Engineering & Technology
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: ET Docket No. 03-104

Dear Sir or Madam:

In response to your issuance of a Notice of Inquiry on the subject of the proposed **Broadband Over Power Line (BPL)** deployment in the United States, I hereby wish to convey to you my concern that BPL will render impossible any practical use of the shortwave radio spectrum, initially within urban areas and eventually across this country.

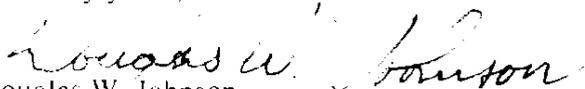
My interest in this issue is based on my having been a listener to the international broadcast shortwave bands since 1958. For a number of years during the Cold War, I intensively monitored Radio Moscow broadcasts on behalf of the Voice of America and RFE/RL to determine Soviet radio spectrum occupancy to assist our radio voices in selecting frequencies best suited to reach their intended targets. I also conducted on-site monitoring across the Soviet Union in this effort. I continue to depend on shortwave international broadcasts as part of my weekly routine to stay informed and be entertained by voices and cultures beyond our borders. As an American, I am certainly not alone in this attachment to shortwave radio.

Anyone in this country with a modest income and an interest in tuning into foreign broadcasts can now do so. That freedom of choice and access to information and entertainment from the far corners of our planet by way of radio will likely be denied by FCC approval of BPL.

Assuming BPL is technically feasible, it will most surely introduce a high level of interference into the highly sensitive shortwave receivers that have become affordable and commonplace in recent decades. Any measurable high-frequency RF-energy applied to our 60 Hz power lines will surely be overwhelmingly detected by today's SW receivers. The result for the listener will be a profound degradation of any desired international broadcast signal. That signal will be effectively jammed. For most Americans having SW receivers, the inevitable result will be a de facto elimination of a long-standing, free and unfettered pathway for a flow of information and entertainment from other nations.

Is BPL an innovation that will improve our society so dramatically that it is worth sacrificing shortwave broadcasting? Surely BPL's main attraction is its revenue-generating potential, and that should be no argument in favor of its approval before the FCC. Please do not allow BPL to obliterate international radio broadcasts, just as surely as the Soviet Union did with its high-power radio jammers. This is most surely a fundamental issue of our freedom of information!

Sincerely yours,


Douglas W. Johnson,
President


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