

What is wrong with the BPL:

1. One of the FCC's primary functions is to regulate radio frequency radiation sources and prevent interference among various users of the RF spectrum through its licensing authority. The FCC has a responsibility to make sure that licensed users of the RF spectrum resource, no matter how insignificant in number, are protected from unlawful intrusion by commercial or government entities that want unrestricted access to the resource.
2. There are currently other means of supporting broadband interconnection services, such as coaxial cable, that do not radiate signals at all, provided that they are properly installed and maintained. Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) service is also available in some localities using the existing telephone network. Nationally, we already have broadband cable connections to most homes and businesses. In fact, some places offer a choice of cable services. Although there are rural areas without cable service at this point in time, RF satellite and microwave links are available to fill in the gaps in these service areas. Obviously, satellite and microwave are not as cost effective on a single user basis as having a new \$20 gadget that one is able to connect between a computer and the power line.
3. BPL requires modification of the power lines to make it work, so the system is not an immediate "plug and play" solution. Installation of signal couplers and repeaters along the power lines are needed to communicate around existing power transformers and to make up for RF losses encountered in the long power line runs. The transmission losses encountered in BPL are both copper losses in the wires, and radiation losses. Therefore, the proponents of BPL in admitting the need to install repeaters, confirm that the system will act as jamming devices to other communications services. Instead of modifying power lines for BPL, effort should be directed to coaxial cable installation for those areas currently without broadband access. Installing RF transmitters on utility poles to boost broadband signals on the power utility's long wire antennas (the power grid) makes no sense from either a technical or a social economic viewpoint. It only makes sense from a corporate economic viewpoint.

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