

It is my understanding, given the wide range of reference material on Broadband over Power line (BPL), that a significant amount of interference for amateur radio would result if the power companies are successful in their efforts to convince the FCC to allow broadband transmission (programming, etc.).

On the one hand it would seem to be a bonus if programming could be offered to consumers at a lower price. Unfortunately, the history of business is such that lower prices do not last for a long time. In truth we must admit that this is not a long range good deal for the consumer.

More importantly, though, in this time of national crisis and concern over man-made and natural disasters we must be careful to avoid anything which will disrupt emergency communications. BPL would certainly do that, to the detriment of citizens in need.

In addition, amateur radio, which has made significant and important advances in communication almost since its beginning more than eighty years ago, would be affected on a daily basis, emergencies notwithstanding. Interruption of amateur radio practice (which has been shown to be the case in the few countries where BPL has been tried already) is not in the public interest.

Confusion over the term "public interest" has resulted in many FCC changes in the past; we should take great care not to make a mistake in allowing BPL, for it would be another instance of confusing "public interest" with business interests. Commissioners should vote down BPL at this time.

Thank you.

Calvin L. Branche KA1WOR