

I am an amateur radio operator who holds licenses here in the USA as well as in Canada and Mexico. I also enjoy listening to international shortwave radio stations. If the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) method of Internet access is adopted across the country this will have a serious impact on the use of the HF and low-VHF radio spectrum - 2 to 80 MHz.

Recently, the FCC refused to allocate bands for amateur use around 136 kHz and 5 MHz, citing potential interference problems for the electric utilities (at 136 kHz) and government agencies (at 5 MHz), and in the last few weeks amateurs were permitted to use 5 channels in the 5 MHz range with many conditions and limitations. These conditions and limitations are to minimize interference with those government users. If the nation's power grid becomes a large transmitter on the HF and low-VHF spectrum, this will be a problem for these government users as well as amateurs. Law-enforcement agencies and other first-responder agencies like the Red Cross use the low-VHF spectrum now, and they too will see problems if BPL is implemented.

Amateur operators routinely experiment with transmitters using very low levels of RF output. I have documentation of many contacts which I made using as little as 5 watts output and small antennas on the 14 MHz and 28 MHz amateur bands. If BPL is deployed nationwide, the BPL signals could propagate all over the world. The nation's power grid, with signals using much more power than even the typical legal limit for US amateur operators (1500 watts PEP), would collectively become a large polluter of the HF and low-VHF radio spectrum. This would make any problems with radio jamming systems used in the former USSR in the 1970s and 1980s pale in comparison.

If BPL is implemented in my city, and I did not want to use that service for my Internet access, I would still be subjected to BPL signals in my own house that would interfere with my radio gear and possibly other appliances in my house. With the other methods of Internet access, if I do not need them I do not need them connected to my house.

For my use of the radio spectrum as an amateur radio operator and as a shortwave radio listener, and for those agencies charged with protecting this nation, it is important that these frequencies remain available for use. BPL would seriously limit my use of the radio spectrum, and compromise the activities of those agencies which rely on this spectrum to perform their necessary tasks. I ask that the FCC not permit BPL to become widely used in the USA.

Thank you.

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