

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

District Emergency Coordinator – Area 2, Connecticut

August 12, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I just had the opportunity to listen to Amateur Radio frequencies as they were being completely obliterated by the intense interference caused by the Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) technology. As a District Emergency Coordinator for New Haven and most of Middlesex counties in Connecticut, I am deeply concerned at what BPL will do to the Amateur Radio service and in particular, to emergency communications in times of disaster.

Amateur Radio is more than a hobby to the thousands that have studied and passed the technological requirements to earn their license. Amateur Radio has also always been available to provide emergency communications whenever the normal means of communications have failed. "Hams" respond during all types of emergencies as evidenced during numerous tornadoes, earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes, search and rescue, the Shuttle recovery efforts in Texas as well as the catastrophic September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our country.

If the FCC allows BPL to use the electrical distribution network as a carrier-current system, it will interrupt normal everyday communications. Not only amateur radio, but any radio service that lies within the wide spectrum range that BPL radiates, including the government's own services. Additionally, other services that are likely to be affected are those thousands of homes now using DSL and cable-TV services. These services share the same poles and are in close proximity to those proposed to carry BPL over power lines.

The FCC is responsible for the protection of the limited assets of Radio Amateurs. Those of us in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service know the effect of a lack of communications in a community. We volunteer our time, services and equipment to provide that which no other service can provide. We take a great pride in the public services we train for and do well and want to continue to be able to provide the level of service that Amateur Radio has always provided. With BPL causing massive levels of interference through most of our spectrum allocations, the ability to serve the public at a level it has expected and received could likely become history.

The FCC goes through great strides to protect radio and television services from interfering with one another. The spectrum is allocated in such a manner that specific services stay within their pre-assigned spectrum space so that everyone with a need to use this limited environment can do so. How can the FCC allow BPL to invade so many spectrum allocations at one time and allow interference with thousands of these pre-assigned and pre-licensed legitimate services?

In consideration of the above points made above, I respectfully request that BPL technology NOT be deployed until it can be proven beyond any reasonable doubt that it will not destroy those services that are already established.

Sincerely,

Arthur J. Fregeau, K1WMQ

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District Emergency Coordinator – Connecticut, Area 2