

I am strongly opposed to the rollout of "Broadband over Power Lines" (BPL) as allowed under current Part 15 regulations. If this technology is allowed to move forward, all licensed services (and, I'm certain, unlicensed services) that make use of the HF and low VHF spectrum will be negatively impacted. The level of impact will vary from service to service but many, especially low-power users in the Amateur Service, may be interfered with so severely that they will be unable to communicate due to BPL noise radiating from the ubiquitous overhead electrical power distribution grid. To overcome this interference, many users will be forced to use high-powered amplifiers which will have an environmental impact due to the greatly increased electrical demand that these amplifiers will require. Perhaps most importantly, military and emergency communications units (amateur and otherwise) will be hard-pressed to communicate in the presence of BPL interference. The national security ramifications of this potential scenario are dire to say the least. In numerous BPL experiments around the globe, interference to licensed HF spectrum users has been noticed, much of it difficult or impossible to overcome. Measurements of the limited BPL trials in the US have shown that the situation here is no different. Communications were impeded or blacked out altogether due to BPL interference.

As a licensed user in the Amateur Service, I strongly urge the Commission to ignore the pecuniary pressures being applied by the electrical utilities and to err on the side of ensuring that licensed services that have legally used the HF spectrum for well over 50 years be allowed to continue to do so unimpeded. Please halt BPL now. Thank you.

Kindest regards -- J. Scott Northcutt (N4JN), Nashville, TN