

FCC Docket 03-104

In response to the FCC's BPL *Notice of Inquiry (NOI)* in ET Docket 03-104, published May 23, 2003 I would like to make a comment.

I have been an Amateur Radio operator for a short time now, and in that brief time I have seen how often governments, both foreign and domestic, have relied on Amateur Radio operators to assist in various disasters around the world. These volunteers have not only saved numerous lives, but they have changed numerous lives. And the lives they have changed are the lives of children. Do you realize how many children have participated in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program?

What is ARISS? This program is an opportunity for students to experience the excitement of Amateur Radio by talking directly with crewmembers of the ISS (International Space Station). Teachers, parents and communities will see how Amateur Radio can energize youngsters about science, technology, and learning.

Speaking to the ISS crewmembers is a unique educational experience. NASA would like to take this opportunity to involve large numbers of individuals, particularly youth, in technology and the US space program with the help of Amateur Radio.

NASA approves this program, why? Because of the future of our children and the future of the Space Program and the future of all Science. NASA believes that through this ARISS program that children will be excited enough to pursue science, technology and learning. Isn't that the plan of President Bush, to have more children learn and be excited about learning?

I was recently spending time with my 9-year-old daughter out on our front lawn this past summer. I had my handheld amateur radio, a Kenwood TH-D7A, and I was tuned into 145.800 MHz, which is the downlink frequency for the International Space Station. After a few minutes, we heard the voice of Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP. My daughter responded by asking who that was, and I told her that he is one of the Cosmonauts onboard the Space Station. "Daddy you're teasing" she said. "No honey, it really is." Can you imagine for a moment the look on her face, the excitement in her voice? She asked if she would ever be able to go into space and what she had to do to get there. Now, imagine that look and feeling thousands of times and you will have a brief glimpse as to what thousands of school age children (our future) around the world have experienced with *amateur radio* while talking to the astronauts and cosmonauts. How many of these children have now dedicated their lives to the pursuit of science, technology and learning because of amateur radio and being able to talk to an Astronaut or Cosmonaut?

This September 2003, I will be taking a Morse Code class with my daughter and together we will share the science, technology and learning that Amateur Radio has to offer. My only hope is that the FCC understands that if the BPL is passed that I will not be able to share all of this with my daughter, because you see, we live 50' from the very power lines that will be carrying these signals that will interfere with our FCC approved Amateur Radio station. And for what, so the power company can make more money, at what

expense? Our children's future. Look at the big picture, step back for a moment and picture all of the kids that have had their lives changed by Amateur Radio, now, take all of that excitement, enlightenment, wonderment and imagine it taken away, taken away by static noise, electrical noise.

All I can say is, Please, let drop this BPL issue, follow the example of the other countries that have already experienced this issue. Listen to the thousands of Amateur Radio operators and non-ham's that have expressed concern, but most of all, remember our children, our future. See their excitement in this hobby and what it can lead to.

Sincerely,
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