

The number of users clamoring for use of the RF spectrum has grown dramatically, and shows no signs of decreasing.

A logical deduction from the above statement would be that users of the RF spectrum - both those transmitting, and those using receiving equipment - should be using increasingly efficient equipment and transmission methods which neither transmit nor receive unintended RF.

Given the above deduction, BPL (Broadband over Power Line) is extraordinarily bad technology. It has been proven to cause incapacitating interference across wide swaths of the RF spectrum. The operators - the power companies - have proven once again, to 50 million citizens of this country, that they are not qualified to operate and maintain their current infrastructure, much less take on the responsibility for unfamiliar technology, completely unrelated to their supposed "core competence".

If I may site from my personal experience: I have had 34 separate incidents of power line interference since March 7th, 2002. However, the incidents of interference (and my records on same) go back over a decade. I have spent nearly \$1,000 on equipment which I use solely to direction-find power line noise, because my local power company has so frequently been unable to locate the noise sources. In addition, I've taken many vacation days off from work, for the sole purpose of demonstrating to the power company the severity of the noise I was hearing, and assisting them in finding it.

While I continue to experience severe, recurring problems, I am fortunate in one way; the folks at my power company charged with fixing the noise generally do so in a reasonable period of time. Many Amateurs are not so lucky. Citizens not as technically competent as Amateur Radio operators may suffer perpetual interference to their televisions and radios, since they would be clueless as to the causes of the interference, and how to mitigate that interference.

The bottom line for me, however, is that I'm almost continually deprived, to various degrees, of the use of spectrum which I'm licensed to use, by an operator who is unwilling to maintain their infrastructure in a legal and moral fashion. A reasonable person might ask "why does this interference keep occurring?", and the answer is quite simple: the infrastructure is old, and in a poor state of repair. I've been told that the power company has no plans to eventually rebuild, because they do not own it; they have a long-term contract with the town of Saint Cloud, who formerly operated the facilities (many orders of magnitude more poorly than the current utility), but still maintains ownership.

I have absolutely no reason to assume that my situation is unique in any way. Accordingly I can foresee no circumstances which would find any power company, as they are currently operated, operating BPL in a manner that did not deprive legitimate users of the RF spectrum the use of same.

BPL is the wrong technology, run over the wrong infrastructure, by the wrong operators, at the wrong time.