

August 18, 2003

Memo to: FCC Chairman and Commissioners

From: Dave Bell, TV/Film producer, Amateur Radio Operator

Regarding: Broadband over Powerlines (BPL)

I am against BPL. Technically, from what I've read about it, it is a nightmare, and even if implemented, is doomed to failure.

The power companies need to tend to first things first, and not spend ten cents attempting to get into what they consider a lucrative sideline when their entire infrastructure is falling down and they are demonstrably incapable of tending to their principal business, power generation and delivery with some degree of reliability.

For the power companies to pursue an RF polluting scheme such as BPL is borderline criminal, and for the FCC to even consider such a proposal makes you equally culpable and quite frankly smacks of political payback. This could be your own Enron.

There is no reason for me, a mostly non-technical person, to go into the technical shortcomings of BPL. Those have been well documented by the ARRL and others who really know what they are talking about. However, as a person who understands documentary producing and journalism, I feel totally qualified to tell you directly that the power companies are lying. They are emphasizing the questionable positive points of BPL and totally ignoring the devastating effect BPL will have on all users of the HF radio spectrum. More voters are using this spectrum than you might imagine, and they will all be very angry with the current administration and the FCC if BPL is implemented.

Finally, there is no need whatsoever for BPL. Consequently, even if implemented, it will ultimately fail because it will not be reliable, and reliability is everything in Internet connections. The power companies will end up losing millions, probably billions of dollars, all of which will in one way or another be passed on to us, the consumers, and all that will have been achieved is the polluting of valuable radio frequencies.

Do not approve BPL over powerlines.