

Ladies and Gentlemen

I'm writing this comment to raise an objection to the proposed use of the power lines to provide high speed internet service.

I am a radio amateur with 50 years of radio experience. I participated in early Civil Defense exercises that were held in the 1955 time frame. During one of these exercises I was net control operator for the entire state of Illinois, under the Radio Amateur Radio Civil Emergency Service (RACES). A thunder storm rolled through the Chicago area. During that time I was unable to communicate with other so called target cities over the entire state of Illinois. This was of course due to the almost continuous noise that covered up the weak signals on the HF bands.

What does this have to do with BPL ?

I have seen the measurements of BPL signal levels on the HF bands at four different BPL test sites. It is obvious from my first hand experience in the civil defense exercises, that BPL will almost eliminate radio amateur radio communications on the HF bands. Clearly, communications by way of weak signals, which is most often the case on the HF bands, will be impossible.

If the goal is to provide more effective internet access to home users, fiber optic cable which has much greater bandwidth, and does not cause interference to current users of the HF spectrum should be considered as an alternative.

My background, I have worked in the electronics communications field for my entire adult life, at the hardware design and test level for telecomm switching systems and at a systems level for cellular radio systems.

My conclusion, BPL is not a good solution to providing more internet connectivity to the home user, when there are other technologies that offer more performance, and at the same time do not interfere with the existing licensed users of the affected RF spectrum.

Respectfully submitted, William D. Vehe