

I have heard much talk about BPL and its alleged interference with the HF ham radio bands. I am also a broadband user who suffered a long time without broadband access, in a town which still has very little coverage. My family and I use the internet heavily, and I have come to depend on my broadband connection quite a bit. After watching the video the ARRL has posted on their website, < <http://www.remote.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/08/08/2/?nc=1> > I would pull the plug now if my broadband connection was causing the interference they are showing. I've always had an interest in amateur radio, and I've been licensed now for just over 10 years. I've also always enjoyed helping out in my community and have enjoyed being a Law Enforcement Explorer Scout, as well as a volunteer fireman/EMT. I am a member of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) in Colorado, and have helped provide radio communications on Wildfires and other emergency needs. Helping out, especially in emergencies, is one of the most rewarding parts of ham radio, and one of the oldest and most important values in the ham community. Hams have always been ready and willing to provide a critical service in the event of disaster. Just take a look at some of the callouts for ARES and RACES groups in the last few years. You will find amateur radio has provided critical communications support for wildfires, floods, hurricanes, terrorist attacks, and most recently mass blackouts < http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=528&ncid=528&e=1&u=/ap/20030819/ap_on_hi_te/blackout_ham_radio >. Even in a massive blackout, hundreds of hams were willing and prepared to operate emergency communications even without the benefit of commercial power. Although it appears that the more local VHF/UHF communications are not affected, the HF bands are the glue that holds ham radio together and links up states and countries in disasters. In my opinion BPL would completely eliminate any useful communication on HF. With the HF bands unusable, this would cripple emergency communication and put citizens at risk. I certainly do not see the benefits of broadband internet access, and more money in the hands of power companies outweighing the risks of crippling a service which the Office of Homeland Security recently partnered with.