

It is clear from the limited testing that has been done that BPL will render the HF and low VHF portions of the radio spectrum useless. Therefore we have to ask ourselves if it makes sense to give up a huge chunk of this resource to gain what BPL has to offer. Perhaps current users of this spectrum can find other ways to communicate and perhaps they already have moved to satellite systems for their primary communication channels. Even so, I still have a difficult time believing that it is right to allow this spectrum to be polluted beyond use so that yet another broadband service can be established. HF communications is still a viable first choice for many users and of tremendous value as a backup system for others. I strongly object to the implementation of BPL. Below are a few points related to my position:

1. Our military and other militaries still use HF communications. Lives will be lost if our military cannot communicate within itself or with allies. We also need to be able to monitor the communications of militaries and groups who are not our allies. This will be impossible if the spectrum is polluted with BPL signals.
2. Aircraft over the oceans use HF communications. Even if that use goes to satellite systems, aircraft safety depends on the use of independent backup systems (satellite and HF).
3. As a matter of homeland security it is vital that we have various systems of communications. Our country is large and our interests are worldwide. HF is a reliable way to communicate worldwide and certainly should not be eliminated as a backup system. It is hard to imagine that an unfriendly group or country could cripple our satellite communications system but a few years ago who would have thought box cutters could bring about the death and destruction we experienced on Sept. 11.
4. New wireless devices are being invented everyday. These devices improve the quality of our lives and provide jobs for the people who design, produce, and support them. Who knows what the next wireless wonder may be but what if it needs to operate on an HF or low VHF frequency and those bands are polluted with BPL signals? What if a new technology comes along that makes HF and low VHF prime spectrum for new wireless applications? Can we afford to have that spectrum rendered useless by BPL?
5. BPL doesn't offer us anything we don't already have. Sure it can make broadband available to outlying areas but there are other services such as 802.11 systems that can offer service in those areas. Providers of wireless broadband are just now reaching critical mass and are expanding their coverage daily. BPL will require equipment installation and upgrades in order to provide coverage in remote areas. Will the power company be willing to make those investments for one or two subscribers?
6. The Amateur Radio Service will be severely compromised if BPL is implemented. HF communications is the backbone of this service, providing essential communications links and incentive for people to enter the hobby and stay in it. The justification for the amateur service is well known and is as valid today (maybe even more valid) as it was when it was initiated. This service has time and time again proven itself to be a valuable resource in times of emergency. When the power is down or when disasters destroy ordinary communications infrastructure, amateur radio operators are ready and willing to provide vital services.

I have described a few of my concerns above but there are many more. Please do not allow BPL implementation in this country. To do so would be a serious mistake.