

Comments directed specifically to Docket ET 03-104:

After a review of a number of comments and research conducted by the American Relay League, I must voice my opposition to implementation of broadband internet transmission via power lines in its current state.

I am all for the advancement of technology that will improve communications, but not at the expense of displacing perfectly useful existing communications. The interference that will be caused by BPL will displace many commercial and hobby users of HF spectrum.

I happen to be an Extra Class Amateur Operator, licensed since 1969, and am very proud of my hobby. For almost 100 years, Amateur Radio Operators have been the pioneers and developers of essentially all communications media that has existed. And the contributions are still happening.

Our world has seen a rather sudden shift towards the dependence of computers and the internet. College age students have had access to computers for all their life and many would have no clue how to communicate should the internet or power grids cease to function. Good old point to point analog communications is becoming a lost art, but would be essential in the case of any kind of emergency.

Amateur Radio has promoted good operating skills and is an integral part of most metropolitan emergency preparedness.

Wiping out the HF spectrum, and quite possibly VHF and UHF (via harmonic transmissions and birdies) would cause major interference problems for amateur, commercial, aircraft, and all other users of the spectrum. At the present time, power companies have a hard enough time controlling Electro Magnetic Interference from their power lines, which already conflicts with users of all portions of the frequency spectrum. With such a track record, how can they be counted upon to keep the BPL interference under control, being defined as no interference to existing services?

Perhaps someday this technology will exist in a non interfering format. It is NOT there now.

73, Ralph Bowen N5RZ