

Dear Commission Members,

Here are my comments concerning Docket 03-104, Broadband Over Power Line (BPL).

First, the Amateur Radio corps of operators is a valuable and reliable service that provides communications in emergencies, natural disasters, public service and for the advancement of communications sciences. A key asset of the Amateur Service is the high frequency allocations between 2 and 30 MHz. These frequencies offer long distance, reliable communications for use by the Amateur Service in creating and maintaining a network to serve government and citizens whenever called to do so.

BPL appears to offer quick and easy Internet access to many. However, there is conclusive proof via tests conducted by both the American Radio Relay League and independent amateur operators that this technique of Internet access also generates considerable interference to the high frequencies. This interference causes severe noise on the very frequencies that amateur radio operators value and use as the primary communications channels for the public service that they perform. BPL generates noise levels that are so strong that they literally obliterate reception of other stations, rendering the high frequencies as useless.

I feel that power companies, eager to offer new technology to customers to generate new revenues, have largely ignored testing of the environmental and reception impact that BPL would present on the high frequencies. To be sure, it is in the interest of the power companies to gain new customers or expand their product offerings for financial gain through a technology such as BPL. This gain by the energy enterprises cannot be at the expense of the Amateur Service, that has served the communications needs of this country for so long and so unselfishly.

I believe that the FCC should review all technical reports on BPL carefully. If the Commission does so, I believe it will recognize the damage to the high frequency spectrum that will result from widespread use of BPL. I urge the Commission to especially review tests conducted by the American Radio Relay League, which clearly possesses the technical expertise and understanding of the Amateur Service to provide thorough analyses and reviews of BPL's impact on the high frequencies.

It is the duty of the FCC to protect the radio spectrum and to protect the Amateur Service, which it authorizes. I urge the Commission to act in a manner that best fits the public good, namely, to protect important emergency communications. To act to encourage BPL for the financial gain of power corporations at the same time allowing damage to valuable radio spectrum that supports security and public service is irresponsible and short sighted.

Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully,

John Michael Stapp
Amateur Radio KE0WW

