

Dear Sirs,

I would like to voice my concern over the proposed "Broadband over Power Lines" (BPL) technology. It appears that BPL will cause a significant problem to the amateur radio HF and lower end portion of the VHF bands due to increased interference. Although I currently only hold a technician's license I plan to upgrade in the near future. This, however, would be severely affected by the BPL technology since it would render the bands useless in most populated areas. This would also mean the transceivers would be rendered useless in these bands. So will the federal government and the FCC be willing to reimburse the some of 670,000 of licensed amateur radio operators for the cost of the equipment? Or will the BPL supporters be willing to pay for this?

I am a firm believer in technology that benefits all people and believe a compromise can be made in this technology and the spectrum that amateur radio operators currently utilize. Also has this technology be reviewed for potential impacts on such areas as military communication, commercial airline communication, or existing radio and television spectrum? All these areas share space through the same bands as amateur radio operators and they to will be potential impact to these groups by this BPL technology.

There are studies that have been conducted in other countries that prove this BPL technology causes serious interference issues. I hope the FCC has the foresight to review these studies and make a decision based on real evidence and not just what is best for corporations. This technology may affect the current power grid more than we know presently and could have major repercussions that are not able to be seen on short term trials.

I recall a statement made at a conference I attended a few years back by Dr. Robert Pepper of the FCC regarding the telecommunication industry and how competition by the little guy is a good thing. It is also a necessity to keep major corporations in check and make them realize that there are others out there that they impact and can serve the public just as well.

I also want to point out that the amateur radio operator is more then just a group of individuals trying to occupy band spectrum. We are a group that is called upon by the federal government in times of disaster to assist with emergency communication. So would it be fair to amateur radio operators to not weigh this information when making the final decision on this BPL technology? Or is it better to make the corporations happy and line their pockets with money or hurt the ones you call upon in time of need? This is a decision that the FCC will need to consider heavily before making anything final. As one of the nation's more than 670,000 federally licensed radio amateurs, I urge the FCC to do the right thing and protect our radio spectrum so that we can continue to do good for all American citizens.

Sincerely,  
Dennis J Hoffmeyer  
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