

Gentlemen,

As a licensed amateur radio operator (N4ULS) and a professional in the public safety communications industry, I am compelled to comment on the above caption matter, Docket 03-104, Broadband Over Power Line (BPL).

On the surface, BPL technology appears to carry great promise. The potential to carry broadband Internet traffic over the existing power line infrastructure with little additional equipment is indeed quite attractive. Any user of the Internet would agree that more options and choices for broadband would increase competition and ultimately improve broadband technology.

Unfortunately, anecdotal information and formal testing performed so far indicates that current BPL technology poses a serious interference threat to HF frequencies in the amateur radio service, as well as other radio services operating in the HF frequency range. At the time of this writing, the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) has compiled numerous test reports, audio recordings, and video recordings showing the severe and harmful nature of BPL interference to frequencies in the amateur radio services. These reports can be found on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>.

Of particular concern is a video compiled by Mr. Ed Hare, manager of the ARRL's RF Laboratory, which is available from the ARRL at the above web site. This video graphically demonstrates the severe and harmful effects of BPL interference to HF frequencies in the amateur radio service in current BPL trial areas. While I do not wish to describe this video in detail here, it is obvious that the BPL systems in the trial areas created severe interference that rendered the tested amateur frequencies nearly useless.

On the basis of the evidence presented in the ARRL's tests, I believe that BPL, in its current incarnation, poses a very serious threat to all services that utilize frequencies in the HF band, including the amateur radio service. Other HF radio services are equally threatened by this technology, including, but not limited to, aeronautical radio services, maritime radio services, shortwave broadcasting, and fixed communications services, such as those used for state and local disaster management, Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security. I urge the Commission to act in the public interest and reject BPL in its current form until such time that the technology is perfected and can be deployed without causing interference to incumbent services operating in the HF frequency range. The quest for better and faster Internet access should not override our responsibility to protect our limited HF spectrum from interference.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John R. Anderson