

I live in a place where, thanks to an incompetent cable company and the failure of the ILECs to provide easily-available data services to consumers at a reasonable price, my only options are dialup, ISDN or a dedicated Frame Relay circuit. Dialup is inexpensive but decidedly not broadband; ISDN is somewhat faster but is not tariffed at consumer-friendly rates; a dedicated circuit fits the bill but would be the equivalent of taking on a very large car payment. Because of this, I am always glad to see new options become available and also for the existing carriers to pick up some more competition.

Having said that, though, what I have seen of the proposed service indicates that it emits RF across a very broad swath of the spectrum, interfering with existing users of the various radio services. Power lines are pervasive enough that such interference would pose a significant threat to public safety, to say nothing of the inconvenience that would be caused to businesses and individuals who depend on their radios. The Commission may recall that it outlawed spark gap transmissions in the 1930s because it caused similar problems.

I urge the Commission to allow the power companies to offer Internet access over its lines, but only under the condition that the amount of RF escaping be limited to levels similar to those permitted for leakage in cable television systems.

Thank you for your time.