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AUG 28 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

992 S. FM 740  
Forney, Texas 75126  
August 13, 2003Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: NOI ET Docket 03 -104

Dear Sir or Madam.

My amateur radio operation began in 1956 when I obtained my first amateur radio license. Through the years amateur radio has been a great sense of pleasure and has helped me find employment three different times. I have taught amateur radio to public school students and adults at various times. I have participated in several communications emergencies and am now an active member of a local RACES organization. All of these activities will come to an end if BPL is permitted in my local community. Use of BPL will create a noise environment that will prevent use of HF and some VHF bands in a urban setting. Think carefully before permitting the large scale use of BPL. The information provided by the ARRL will support my belief that BPL will create serious interference on HF and some parts of the VHF radio spectrum.

Another activity that I have recently undertaken is the use of low power digital communications at my home station. I want to learn more about communicating on HF with low power around the world. The use of BPL will bring my activities to a halt, due to the interference created in the HF spectrum. Also I see no reason to continue my efforts to teach amateur radio classes in local schools because many of the frequencies used by amateur radio operators will no longer be useable, especially in urban areas

Amateur radio has remained a viable and useful communications service for nearly almost 100 years. Many people in the communications industry got their start through amateur radio. The use of amateur radio in times of emergencies is well documented. Wide spread use of BPL will end this tradition at the same time our nation is dealing with new threats to our homeland. Many amateur radio operators have and are spending considerable time and money to become more proficient in the area of emergency communications. Wide spread use of BPL will cause interference on most of the frequencies that will be used in an emergency. U.S. Government agencies like FEMA, and others also make use of frequencies in the HF radio spectrum. These agencies may need to communicate with each other and radio amateur radio operators. BPS will make that difficult due to the radio interference it generates. Most amateur radio stations directly involved in an emergency will be using low transmitter power due to having to use emergency power sources. BPL can and will create serious problems for low power stations

Everything the communications industry wishes to accomplish with BPL can be done by using methods that cause little or no interference to radio communications. May I suggest that the use of fiber optics for digital communications is one method that does not cause interference.. Over time the use of fiber optics will prove to be cost effective due to much lower maintenance costs after installation. Weather events commonly disrupt local electrical power distribution. Thunderstorms and the lightning they produce are common events and ice accumulation during the winter seasons often disrupts the distribution of electrical power. BPL would be unreliable during sever weather while fiber optical systems would be mostly unaffected

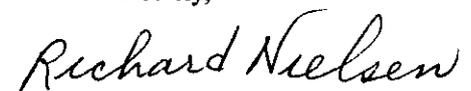
One final point involves the civil aircraft frequencies ( 118 Mhz to about 137Mhz.). Most major airports are located in, or close to large urban areas. BPL has the potential of causing serious interference in this frequency range. Civil aviation radios use the AM mode for communications and as you know AM does not cancel noise interference easily. There is the possibility of many unhappy people in the aviation industry if BPL systems start causing interference on their frequencies in and around local airports.

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As you can see there are many potential problems that will result from the use of BPL on a large scale. Wide spread use of BPL will create more problems than it will solve. The FCC has the responsibility of protecting all radio communications from unnecessary interference. The FCC must not permit BPL technology from becoming widely used across the nation and creating serious interference problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Nielsen".

Richard Nielsen  
Amateur Radio License K5RN