

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Inquiry Regarding Carrier Current	)	ET Docket No. 03-104
Systems, including Broadband over	)	
Power Line Systems	)	

COMMENTS OF WALTER L. MAZAN, II, KG4K

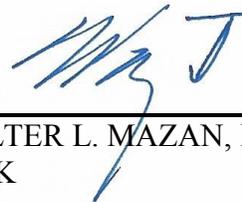
Walter L. Mazan, II, the undersigned, hereby submits late-filed comments in the above referenced proceeding. I am opposed to the Broadband over Power Line Systems (BPL) initiative currently before the Commission in this proceeding. As an active amateur radio operator I oppose any effort to deploy BPL as long as its potential for radio frequency interference remains in dispute. However, my objections are much more broadly based as outlined below.

1. **BPL will divert utility management and engineering resources from their core mission.** The recent massive power outage in the Northeast and Central United States surfaced major problems with the country's power grid. Wherever blame ultimately lies, significant management attention and engineering resources will be required to address the deficiencies. Attention should not be diverted to entering a tangential new business with the core mission of the utilities in such disarray.
2. **The existing "last mile" power delivery system is far more fragile than other methods of broadband delivery.** During the past summer, weeklong power outages were the norm following large hurricanes and regular thunderstorms alike. The same natural events had little impact on telephone and cable service

and any problems that did arise were repaired much more quickly. Whether due to its age, a lack of investment, or the nature of power delivery, the power system in its current form is far more fragile than telephone or cable. Broadband is too important to the future of the country to be entrusted to an infrastructure that has not improved significantly since its introduction.

3. **If power lines are so good for data, let the utilities use them to monitor their own systems first.** Power companies only know of an outage from customer reports. Most failures can only be diagnosed by time-consuming physical inspection. Indeed, the most common status offered by Dominion Power following hurricane Isabel was that crews were “patrolling the lines, looking for problems.” Let the utilities install digital monitoring systems for their equipment using the power lines for transmission. They could prove that their technology does not cause radio interference and improve customer service at the same time.

Respectfully submitted,



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WALTER L. MAZAN, II  
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