

I am against the use of exposed or open line BPL. BPL poses a serious problem for any user of the HF Spectrum. This would include Amateur Radio Operators, Short Wave Listeners, Military, and Transportation services. This might seem like a good thing for businesses and consumers, because it could offer them another affordable option for Internet service. It could also intensify competition, potentially lowering or at least stabilizing the cost of broadband service.

Broadband Internet service is already widely available to most of country via both Cable TV and DSL phone lines. There is no urgent need for this service, only the need of companies to make more money.

I urge the commission to fulfill their duty to public and legally authorized users of the MW and HF spectrum. Deny any attempts to authorize BPL service. In this post-911 world, backup emergency communications are a vital need for national security. Do not allow pressure from big business to determine policy.

Furthermore, I am troubled by this proposal for its national security implications. It seems that this proposal, if enacted, would permit access to computers through the power circuit, and as such, would invite a host of harmful virus and worm programs to infect computers through their power circuitry where no firewall or other protections would prevent access. Technology today makes it possible to modify a digital signal to account for alternating current or even power transients that might otherwise interfere with the digital component of the transmission. The broadband over the power line proposal, in fact, seeks to do just that and is proof of it being technically feasible.

Inasmuch as the national government has computers, which are connected through the power grid, a prospective attacker would only have to be within the same area as the victim to infect the computer. Attacks through power lines, especially power lines upgraded to improve broadband digital usage, render all computers -- including those with sensitive national security data -- open to attack. An attacker would not need to be sophisticated to simply instruct a computer to begin dumping or erasing its data. For these reasons, I would strongly advise against this proposal on national security grounds.

One final note, Japan has already decided, based on interference studies done there, that the time is not yet right for Access BPL, pending improvements in the technology. The BBC, in a test in the UK, found BPL to cause significant interference.