

Sep. 30, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
 1270 Fairfield Drive
 Gettysburg, Penna.
 17325

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Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

Subject: Broadband over Power Lines (BPL)

The current proposal to permit electric utilities and their business partners to transmit mid and high frequency radio transmissions over power lines has the makings of a disaster. Regrettably, the lawyers speaking for the proponents of this terrible idea have issued statements that have no relation to the truth. For example, they would have us believe that such RF signals would pose no interference problems to vital communications services already in operation. Such assertions are simply untrue. These corporate attorneys have no scientific evidence to support their claims. Indeed, clear and accurate empirical information collected by qualified engineers produces irrefutable evidence that radio frequency signals, even extremely low powered signals, using power lines as the transmission medium, can and do produce chaotic interference to vitally important communications currently in service.

The Commission is surely aware that ARINC, Inc., the air transport industry's communications company was forced to give up the use of a frequency at its Half Moon Bay, Calif., facility because of such interference from a source that might be as much as 5 miles away, and which the FCC has been unable to locate! This latter incident was reported in QST, the widely respected Journal for Ham Radio Operators that is known and read throughout the world.

All of the above leads me to point out one fact that, to my knowledge, has not been emphasized in BPL discussions to date. Our recent efforts to fight the nation's battle against international terrorism has triggered a suggestion that the ham radio operators in this country can be put to good use by providing important radio communications networks when commercial facilities have been interrupted, damaged or destroyed for whatever reason. The value of privately owned gear operated by hams during times of natural disasters at no cost to the government is well known. Their value to the country in times when their services are vital would be severely compromised, perhaps made useless by permitting the use of power lines as antennas to make a few dollars for corporations that already have a reputation for arrogance and a total disregard for the public good.

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Very truly yours,

Robert E. Moren
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