

I feel that the Commission is rushing to judgement on BPL. The Commission should require tests before any rule making, rather than just saying that power companies will have to make changes if interference occurs. The Commission lacks staff to deal with already existing interference problems. We have a local cable company with a leaky system that has been reported for years and nothing has been done. They get away with it because they know it can take literally years to deal with some issues for lack of FCC staff. Instead of accepting the extravagant power company statements, why not establish tests in various areas of the country where the power company installs BPL units and runs them intermittently on an unpublished schedule (but publicizes general hours of operation) and invites other band users to report suspected interference. This would be a real test of non-interference. The hours of operation and reports could be reported privately to the FCC through a web site. As it stands now, it appears that this service will be given rights over every other existing user of high frequency radio, including federal government, military and homeland security. And a interferer that raises the noise level without ever transmitting identification will be impossible to track. When the Russians did it in the Cold War days it was called jamming. In short, test BPL before making a ruling allowing deployment. And if necessary, license the units through the very efficient ULS so that the commission can get a handle on organizations that will simply do what they want, regardless of the law or regulations. With licenses, the commission can act in the public interest. Without them, it is likely to be powerless to protect existing licenses and government military and security users. If you go forward without adequate tests, you will find to explain when the FBI loses a terrorist because their tracker is jammed so that Mr and Mrs America can gossip about movie stars online.