

I have grave concerns about the interference potential of BPL. In the late 90's, I suffered tremendous interference from wireless modems on the 80-meter ham band. The level of interference was S9+10 db to S9+20 dB from about 3.505-3.550 Mhz. I found out that this was due to wireless modems made by Phonex (Model PX-421) which were being deployed by AT&T Broadband. These wireless modems, as you know, DID comply with Part 15. This demonstrates that devices that are operated at the FCC Part 15 limits can cause harmful interference to sensitive Amateur Radio receivers.

I called AT&T many times over a two-year period and was told they knew of the problem and were addressing it. It wasn't until mid 2000 that AT&T initiated a system-wide recall of the units, supplementing its earlier procedure to respond to specific complaints. In my case, I've experienced a noticeable improvement. However, the problem is not yet completely resolved.

I'm relating this to you because it has taken several YEARS to come to a partial resolution of this problem. If BPL is implemented, am I expected to put up with years of significant interference before a resolution occurs?

In the NPRM, you state that "we therefore would expect that, in practice, many amateurs already orient their antennas to minimize the reception of emissions from nearby electric power lines." This is quite an assumption on your part. I suspect that the majority of amateur radio operators do not have high gain antennas - dipoles and verticals probably being the norm. When erecting dipoles, amateurs put them up based on available supports and not power line noise avoidance. In my case, I have a small city lot that precludes any antenna other than a vertical antenna. I have high voltage power lines within a few hundred yards of my location, and am not experiencing electrical power line noise, other than the wireless modem problem I discussed earlier.

In conclusion, I am asking the Commission to consider the serious consequences of implementing BPL unless there are well thought-out interference mitigation options and a plan for rapid response to interference complaints.

Sincerely,  
Phil Salas - AD5X