

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to urge you to consider the current maintenance nightmare created by ConEd in New York City before you go ahead and approve the use of broadband over powerlines. Several weeks ago, a young woman was killed by coming into contact with a street distribution box. This condition existed because of ConEd's severe cutbacks of normal and preventative maintenance operations, merely to create a pleasing financial picture to shareholders. If electric utilities are incapable, or unwilling, to fix life-threatening conditions, how responsible will they be with customer complaints about "interference"?

This type of data distribution has caused problems with radio services. I wonder what possible benefit would be worth putting the emergency communication networks that helped this country so greatly during recent terrorist strikes, hurricanes, power outages and tornadoes. Certainly, the cell phone and normal police and fire communications were severely crippled during such times.

Here in my home state of Connecticut, major battles are shaping up with utilities about putting new transmission lines underground. Time and again we read newspaper accounts of our electric utilities fighting tooth and nail to oppose what their customers want. They are not responsive, they are not responsible and they don't seem to care about what is best for the communities they serve.

Please do not go forward with BPL.