

To whom it may concern:

Due to the obvious one-sided statements recently issued by the FCC, I feel this may be an exercise in futility, but I feel obligated to make a short statement in the hope that more thoughtful minds will eventually come to lead this discussion at the FCC, and "kill" BPL before it gets some people killed.

BPL presents a hazard to many users of HF frequencies. Perhaps the most vocal are the amateur radio operators (I am licensed as n0ew), but by no means is this the only group that would be negatively affected by the broad-band spectrum pollution of BPL. There are rural fire fighters and law enforcement agencies that rely upon HF for emergency communications.

There are many government agencies that rely upon HF communications as either their primary or backup means of communications (for example, every FBI field office relies upon HF as a backup means of communication).

I could go on, however this point should have been well made in numerous other comments.

There are additional reasons for being concerned about BPL that are being glossed over:

During regional disasters such as wildfires and hurricanes HF is the only viable means of coordinating emergency and life-saving communications. Ships at sea also rely upon HF as a means of emergency communications.

Thousands of people in the United States are avid shortwave listeners. This allows them a view on world politics that is free of censorship in this country. This is critical to protect! Our country was founded upon the exchange of free ideas, without censorship. So long as HF is an available spectrum for communications thoughtful exchange of ideas will remain free-flowing throughout the world.

HF transmissions often have a greater affect beyond their immediate area of radiation. Once the entire country is radiating HF pollution from electrical wires across the entire HF spectrum all effective shortwave and HF communications will cease. The signals are simply obliterated!

Several other countries have already explored BPL and found it is far too damaging to the HF spectrum to allow its use. Japan, a very highly technical country to be certain, has dropped BPL. The Netherlands, Australia, and several other countries in Europe come to mind. Surely we can learn from other countries experiments?

Two recent examples highlighting the need for amateur radio operator's technical skills and FREE equipment that made nation level press were the 9-11 terrorist attack and the tragic crash of the space shuttle across Texas. In both cases large numbers of amateur radio operators responded to the NEED for communications, and performed superlatively! Literally thousands of times amateur radio operators have responded with truly professional levels of

expertise to serve their communities in times of great need. The result has been the saving of numerous lives over the years. BPL places this ability to serve others at great risk.

Just one example of the non-emergency training amateur radio operators engage in locally is the MS-150 Bike Tour. This charity event raises nearly \$1,000,000 every year just in our small area of the country. They plan their event dates around the local amateur radio operators because they recognize they can not safely shepherd upwards of 1,000 bicycle riders along a 150-mile, two-day course without our expert communications.

Just a single example: Two years ago a rider was struck by a car. Cell phones were out of their service range, and therefore useless. The ambulance dispatch was unable to reach their ambulance (which was on stand-by to react just such an accident). The only means of reaching the ambulance was amateur radio. We provide the security of communications when all else fails.

I can also say this as a personal opinion:

Once my privileges to engage in HF communications have been destroyed by this spectrum pollution, I will cease my emergency communications training and I will cease all other efforts to provide emergency communications on the VHF/UHF spectrums. I will no longer serve as an emergency communications expert, voluntarily using thousands of dollars of equipment I have bought, many hundreds of hours of specialized communications training I have accumulated over the years, and without the desire for any compensation for my time and efforts to help my community. I will be done communicating ? let BPL render these emergency communications!

Sincerely yours,

Erik Weaver, n0ew