

To whom it may concern,

Having been a licensed Amateur radio operator for over 25 years and involved with emergency communications I have been following with more than mild interest in the BPL debate.

My concern that has prompted me to write this is the recent dialog from Progress Energy Corp. Their comments that their "level of interference does not seriously degrade ham radio operation or transmissions", and additionally that a "mile or so" of interference would only be a momentary inconvenience to mobile operations, trouble me.

I'm sorry but this is just not an acceptable answer, especially since this is a new service and I should think that PEC would like to be squeaky clean in order for this experiment to progress. If there are already problems, and PEC believes they have done enough to correct it, it is my opinion that the interference will become more pronounced and less addressed.

Is it acceptable for me to transmit spurious emissions as long as it is only a mile or so? Is it acceptable for me to put spurious emissions in only the upper 100kHz of another user's spectrum, as long as I don't interfere with the entire band section? Is it acceptable that I should only slightly inconvenience other users of the radio spectrum? Who defines "slightly", the same person who defines "is"?

The most important point here is that an emergency situation that might require Amateur HF communication is not planned and just might occur within that "mile or so" of inconvenience. Is this really what the FCC is advocating?

Please think long and hard about the future of BPL. There are already many sources of internet service, including direct satellite connection. Unless PEC is giving their service away for free, there seems no particular reason why BPL is a better choice than another service. Until BPL can be managed without interference to all radio services it should not be allowed to be deployed.

Sincerely,

John Fritze Jr.