

I find it admirable that the FCC and the chairman want to bring Internet access to the rural consumer. However, BPL technology has proven ineffective in Japan and Europe. In both areas, it was found that BPL systems were extremely prone to causing and receiving interference from current spectrum users. The interference was so bad that the BPL systems in these countries have been dismantled.

BPL systems are actually simple extensions of the remote control technology already used by power companies to remotely control the grid. Power companies have already admitted that those systems would be interfered with by radio spectrum users. The FCC has chosen to make sure no RF spectrum users can use the same RF spectrum as these control systems. It would seem to me that the FCC has already ruled that BPL systems cause interference.

While I am disappointed by the encouragement the FCC has placed on BPL, I understand wanting market forces to decide which technologies are the best. I would contend though that not everything that the markets find efficient are good for everyone. I expect that the FCC will be diligent in enforcing the rules and force BPL providers to obey the rules. Especially, when they interfere with licensed services such as the amateur radio service.