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Re: BPL Proceeding 04-37

May 1, 2004

Sirs:

I've just got to weigh in on the BPL proposal. I've considered this issue all winter and I conclude that it is a bad idea at best and a potential disaster at the worst.

The square wave transmission characteristics of data generates hash and harmonics all over the spectrum. One small transmitter, taken alone, is nearly undetectable; but with the thousands or even millions of these things in service; the umbrella of transmitted interference and hash will be immense. And this interference will have a built in, terminated transmission line/antenna throughout the entire United States.

This interference will affect the normal HF/VHF spectrum which contains emergency use frequencies, military, HF commercial aircraft, marine, fire, police, county, private systems, amateur radio, broadcast and a myriad of other services. It will affect the business radio bands between 30 Mhz and 50 Mhz and the lower TV channels, 2-4.

That affected business band (30-50 Mhz) is full of local municipality, EMT's, county highway and sheriff departments not to mention the radios in the construction and repair trucks used by the power companies themselves. Relocation is a poor option for many of these services insomuch as they require the longer wavelengths in hilly and mountainous regions or the long distances in the Great Plains. Relocation to higher bands won't work for many and the cost of multiple repeaters and trunking systems for the others is prohibitive; not to mention the strain on the spectrum resource

The goal is to extend high speed internet into extended and remote geographical areas. Those users now depend on TV channels 2-4 (because of range) and also the lower band business frequencies (also because of range) for their own use as well as the services provided by the power companies, other utilities, police and county road services. These services will suffer.

High speed internet services will eventually get to these areas through well planned, engineered and managed growth of technology and hardware. We can do this; in a much better way.

Gari Berliot

