

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to go on record to state that I oppose Broadband over Power Lines (BPL)
[reference NPRM 04-37].

I have been a licensed Amateur Radio Operator since 1993, currently holding an Extra class license. I regularly talk to operators in other states and countries from my modest station. I have enjoyed working on the HF bands during the peak of the sunspot cycle. I have enjoyed seeing what a minimal ham radio station with 100 watts and good antennas could do. I really hope to experience the thrill of working up the band and finding yet another 100 watt European station to contact. I fear, however, that those days might be gone forever - lost in the mud of S9+ interfering signals as power lines are turned into giant antennas arrays pulsing with digital data modulated on the lines.

I am concerned about the potential for interference to the radio spectrum should BPL be approved. The current state of the power distribution system is inadequate for the job it is currently providing. One only has to remember the events of August 14th, 2003 when a major segment of the United States and Canada were left with no power. Investigation into the events which ultimately caused this, pointed to inadequate maintenance of existing infrastructure. If our current suppliers of electrical energy cannot keep electricity flowing (their current primary function) over their installed grid, why add yet another element for them to juggle? The reason boils down to just one issue - MONEY! The proponents of BPL want to compete with cable companies to provide broadband access - yet they are not willing to invest in the necessary infrastructure (like sealed coaxial cable). They are also quite willing to pollute the HF and VHF spectrum in their pursuit of additional revenue.

Proponents of BPL like to emphasize that there will be no impact upon existing services. However, recent investigation has proven otherwise. There was a BPL service installed in Penn Yan, NY. Some local hams went to investigate the claims of no impact to existing services and were shocked at what they heard. A recording of what they experienced can be found at this site: <http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org/>
Listen long and hard to what they experienced as they drove near, around and away from the test area.

Going back to the events of August 14, 2003 - I had my generator ready, and volunteered to provide communications on both the VHF/UHF and HF bands. As it turns out, my assistance was not needed. Because I am a ham, and have emergency power as well as a complete station at my disposal, should the need arise I could pass Health and Welfare traffic.

In closing, I have invested time and effort to build my station, learn about propagation tendencies, and what it takes to provide communication links during times of need. Should BPL be approved, I fear that the vast majority of Amateur Radio operators will let their stations' lapse (sort of what power companies have been doing

for years). Where will the next cadre of trained operators be during the next crises? Hopefully, our country will never see another day like 9/11, however I would like to remind you that ham operators are routinely providing communications during natural disasters of all types.

Thank you for your time to read this.

Dave Wright, N2CK (previously licensed as N2TYR and AA2XP)