

I write to express my opposition to Broadband over Power Lines; it is a poorly thought-out concept which will wreak havoc with radio reception for countless people, while never fulfilling the claims made for it by its proponents.

The problems with BPL are well documented; it has been outlawed in other technically-advanced countries. Additionally, it appears to violate ITU agreements regarding interference and jamming of shortwave broadcasters.

Communications using shortwave frequencies will be adversely affected; not only will a large number of Amateur Radio operators and shortwave listeners experience interference, but there is a real potential for hindrance and disruption of emergency communications, with a resultant possibility of loss of life. Government communications in the shortwave spectrum can also suffer, since the laws of physics do not discriminate between classes of users.

The proponents of this technology know all too well that it will cause interference to shortwave transmission and reception, and acknowledge that their only hope of getting it adopted is to persuade the FCC to exempt it from existing regulation regarding radio interference. The claim that it will provide high-speed internet service to remote areas is rather specious - the necessary equipment to maintain connectivity over long distances and in remote areas is not something that providers of BPL will find cost-effective. In addition, it will most likely become quickly obsolete, since it cannot provide high-bandwidth speeds necessary for streaming video, HDTV, and other bandwidth-hungry applications.

I urge the FCC to stop BPL - the inevitable pollution of the shortwave spectrum can in no way be justified by the desire of the proponents of BPL to jump on the "internet connectivity bandwagon". Other connectivity technologies exist - I believe the primary purpose of BPL is to make money for its proponents. While making a profit is a laudable goal, it is not acceptable when it means creating wholesale pollution of the shortwave spectrum while providing little benefit that cannot be accomplished by other means.

The bottom line is that the real, documented harm from BPL far outweighs any potential gain - especially in view of the fact that many more people could be adversely affected than could possibly benefit.

Thomas Harper
142 W. Fremont
Littleton, Colorado 80120