

I wish to dissuade the FCC from granting permission to implement BPL. The recent interference that has been caused to Jim Spencer, WOSR, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa is an indication of what will come if BPL is allowed. He has suffered interference for the past 10 weeks or more while the local utility tries to correct the interference. If the utility is so ill prepared to handle interference to a licensed radio service, it should not be allowed to operate until it knows what it is doing and can demonstrate that to all affected parties. Obviously the utility is attempting to use BPL lacking the technical where with all to implement it without interfering with licensed services. It is unconscionable to allow this to continue especially considering the potential impact to communications services that could involve life and death communications. Ten weeks to resolve an interference problem is intolerable. Who would put up with loss of telephone or television service for that long, when caused by interference, on the promise that we will fix it (sometime)?

I also find it insulting that The United Power Line Council (UPLC) has stated:

UPLC also commented on amateur radio opposition to the technology, urging the Commission to ignore "armchair amateurs that still use vacuum tube transmitters" and listen to the reputable companies and entrepreneurs who are the real experts on BPL and who have overcome enormous technical obstacles to make BPL a reality in the U.S.

As a licensed radio amateur since 1961 and a registered professional engineer since 1977, I find UPLC's comments condescending and bigoted. It is attempting to be persuasive by destroying the reputation of the opposition not by demonstrating technical facts. I am sure that it is unnecessary to remind the FCC of the technological advances made by the amateur community. If the UPLC has such a shallow defense I urge the FCC to dismiss any further consideration of BPL. No wonder it has taken more than ten weeks to 'attempt' to clean up their act in Cedar Rapids to no avail. With the disdain they apparently hold for radio amateurs I am sure their future efforts to remedy interference will be even less and with less accomplishment, if BPL is allowed to proceed in the future.

Thank you,

William M. Abate, P.E., K3PGB