

I would like to comment on the ET Docket NO 04-37

I recently reviewed the trials of BPL in the video created by the ARRL. I have been a licensed Amateur Radio Station since I was 16 years old and continuous participation for approximately 44 years. There was a time, after I moved into my neighborhood where there was power outages from the local Power Utility company daily. There was also high levels of noise that covered a wide spectrum of radio frequencies from 60 Hertz to 450 MHZ. I live on "Pole Line Road" . The Utility service was so poor and the noise was so incredibly bad, I decided to do something about it. I worked with the Utility company for about three and half years and eventually cleared up the noise. The lines had loose hardware, bullet riddled insulators, and lightning strikes that burned the poles where the hardware could not be tightened. Most of the hardware had been installed in 1922 when the line was first installed and never upgraded. I consider that everyone, the power company and my community benefited from my efforts. I had support from the FCC when the Utility announced they had done enough. The problems were corrected as a result of that FCC support.

If there is support for BPL at the FCC, obviously, the person or persons have never listened to AM or Shortwave radio. I would be happy to lend them one of my 50 radios capable of receiving those frequencies to get an appreciation of the capabilities of short wave. It is amazing that using, 100 milliwatts, that is one tenth of a watt, on 7.004 MHZ, I can communicate from Utah to South Africa more than 12,000 miles and hear stations also running less than one watt from Africa.

The problem is not transmitting, it is usually hearing. The Interference from BPL is outrageous. If someone at the FCC who supports BPL thinks I can turn a half wave 240 foot dipole to eliminate the BPL interference to 160 meters are not qualified to make such a statement and should refrain from supporting something they are not qualified to be an expert. The Wave length at that frequency is 160 meters long(800 feet).

The amateur community is a unique entity. Most are curious, intellectuals with capabilities that far exceed those who use a "mouse" to surf the internet. I was part of a group who built a 2 meter repeater on a mountain top at our expense, 35 years ago that proved its value when the Teton dam broke a year after the repeater was operational. The value of the hams, riding with emergency services that could not talk to each other via radio because they were on unique frequencies, proved the value of these amateur radio systems. It was all volunteer. There seems to be a false sense of communications security today with cellular technology. That system is very vulnerable to failure as is the internet system. Whereas, in my automobile, I have the capability of one thousand watts and can communicate all amateur frequencies from 1.8 to 450 MHZ, self contained with battery power and without relying on vulnerable communications such as the internet or cell phone system .

However, there is so much electronic devices, encroaching upon AM to UHF spectrum, devices that are broadband transmitters without filters. I can also transmit with a broadband device and high power if necessary but I think it is against regulations. If the noise threshold increases from 10 microvolts to 100 microvolts, I will have to run more power to be heard and others will have to do the same. That opens up other possibilities of interference. If the BPL is allowed to Broadband Transmit and interfere with Shortwave, then I should be allowed to do the same, transmit a broadband signal. If the Utilities can, why can't I? I do not think the benefit of having Internet access where ever power lines extend is pretty myopic thinking. Eventually, those rural areas will have Broadband Internet without the interference potential of BPL. There are options for those who live in rural areas that range from wireless to satellite. Having the capability of devices "reporting my usage of which TV channels I watch, how much I use my fridge, stove, or any other appliance is touching on privacy and

big brother watching. I don't think there is justification for that. We have enough privacy deterioration in this country already.

Good grief, the information and tests that have been done in other countries and the trials here in the USA all indicate this BPL over power lines is not a good idea.

Rest assured, if noise appears in my neighborhood, I will use all the resources available including my relationship with my Congressman to Fix it.

Have you ever heard "An ounce of Prevention is better than a Pound of Cure"?

Thank you for allowing me to share my opinion on ET Docket NO 04-37 BPL  
(Broadband over Utility Power lines)

Mike Saville  
Riverton, Utah