

Greetings! I have been a licensed amateur radio operator since June 1964. {Previously as WA9LWJ, now as W9JN. I served my country while in the U. S. Army and one year in the Viet Nam conflict. Since I knew morse code and knew how to communicate, I was given a job in the communications field. I'm proud to have served and in fact still serve my country and friends through amateur radio. I'm also a long time volunteer in the fire/ems service.

I have been keeping abreast of what I feel is a severe potential problem to the amateur radio service with BPL over power lines. Living in a rural area, which would be impacted if this goes through, would cause problems to communications with my station and of course I could impact the computer systems of many neighbors.

In this part of the state the power lines have seen an increase in voltage without any substancial upgrading in the system. I had severe problems with noise deciminating from faulty insulators, and the associated hardware. I had the electrical company fix as many problems as could be found. Still there are many sources of noise. Not being an engineer, these "faults" might cause problems in the proposed BPL system(s). I would think that the electrical companies would want a quiet electrical system void of noise.

Recently I attended a Severe weather spotter class that was put on by the National Weather Bureau from Green Bay, WI. This was a refresher class since I've attended these before. On page one of the handout manual is a area pertaining to "Receiving hazardous weather information". I will write the exact info in this paragraph.

Spotters, both point and mobile, should have access to reliable hazardous weather information. Many spotters have access to amateur radio networks. These networks will likely have one of more radio operators stationed at the NWS offices for providing radar and other meteorological information to the net. Spotter networks not affiliated with amateur radio groups should consider having one or more members monitor NOAA Weather Radio and other outlets for weather information. These networks may wish to select a liaison person who could work with nearby amateur radio groups or the local NWS office.

Amateur radio individules and groups have always come to the forefront in times of emergencies. I would like you to highly consider the potential loss that may occur if these systems go through. Think of the hams who will give up their licenses because of severe noise in many of the HF radio bands. These hams are the same person who enjoys communicating with a DX station, but in times of need reverts to other frequencies to help his/her neighbors. Once these hams are gone, I feel we will lose a link to many necessary services.

Think about the Red Cross, who has used hams in many ways. Think about the hams who set up communications when police and fire towers are down. I know of many time here in Wisconsin that hams came to the rescue of their neighbors.....without getting PAID for these helping hands!

There are other ways to provide internet services without using BPL over power lines. I believe that these other systems may be the better way to go.

Thank you!

sincerely,

John E. Feltz W9JN

3378 Woods Road  
Junction City, WI. 54443-9440