

I would like to argue that it is not in America's best interest to increase the interference already experienced from part 15 devices by allowing BPL. The reason why it is not in our best interest is the damage that will be done to homeland security by the exiting of individual operators from the amateur radio service to other interests and the resulting loss of trained radio operators for emergencies.

Amateur radio is the nations backup emergency communication service. It is the backup to law enforcement, cell phones and even the Internet. In all cases the weak link is the nations PSTN service and the dependency at some point in each network on T1's, DS3's or OC-12's of landline companies.

Even though many Americans have cell phones that are designed to work somewhat in emergencies as I am assuming you know that this is not the case. First, traffic limitations: all systems are designed to handle close to peak non-emergency events. The industry could not support what is necessary to handle emergency traffic. There was a call after 9/11 to cellular companies to provide priority service to public safety users which will "bump" off less important users. So clearly the need is known of the limitation of cellular providers. America needs to have backup emergency operators/owners and amateurs provide that service but why even turn the radio on if we are going to hear interference from BPL.

An addition weak link in the current communication systems of America is the dependency on the PSTN network to provide T1 service. This is due in part to the limited number of Tandem switches in cities that these T1's go through. Because of most if not all sites by all carriers and many APCO-25 systems used by public safety use T1's to go back to their switches makes the systems vulnerable to uncontrollable outages or worse targets. . In other words, the PSTN goes down and so does cellular. So much of the backbone of America's emergency service is dependent on the PSTN.

Again the Radio Amateur provides the backup when these services go down. This is done through among other HF links provided by private individual are not tied to the PSTN. But how can we maintain interest in a hobby and service when as a amateur I have to file a complaint because I am being interfered with by a wire near my house that has a BPL carrier on it. The interference due to part 15 devices is currently bad enough at my house from devices outside my house to have addition interference on the HF bands from BPL.

If the concept that amateur radio is a hobby that is allowed to exist to allow, among other things the training of radio operators for emergency is taken into account one can see how impediments can cause reductions in numbers. When roadblock from BPL is introduced individuals will turn to other interests rather than fight the noise and in the end we have lost another operator for emergencies.

There are other technologies already in use that can be applied to the "last mile" of the Internet. An example was here in Burnsville, MN where the city council told AT&T Cable TV (at the time) to put fiber in the whole city or they would loose their franchise. Well, we have fiber all over this city and DSL and the high-speed satellite service and new compression technology for the PSTN. I do not see why America needs another service that will cause interference when the technology is there to provide bandwidth without effecting homeland security.

I understand that BPL is now more political than technical and that compromises must be reached. I challenge the commission not to blindly allow BPL existing without requiring at

a minimum interference elimination measures to all the amateur bands before a system can be turned on. Please protect America's backup emergency service, Amateur Radio.

David Donaldson  
WB7DRU