MELCARNE Fabrizio (ENTR)

From: Rene PE1RA [pe1ra@amsat.org]
Sent: vendredi 19 septembre 2003 21:43
To: BREFORT Thierry (ENTR)
Subject: Contribution regarding powerline communications

Dear mr. Brefort,

I have read and understand the document about PLC. I understand there is an urgent need in Europe for broadband Internet access. I believe, however, that viable alternatives are available (cable, ADSL, WIFI, satellite etc. etc.) and that PLC has no right to be introduced, since it interferes heavily with other (radio)services on the HF-bands (0-30 MHz).

I believe that the report is not addressing the huge interference problems that arise with PLC. Especially the usage of HF frequencies (0-30 MHz) will suffer severely from the PLC-technology. Commercial firms would like us to believe that the problems do not exist and that the emissions are within the standards, but one can argue - based on actual observation ! - that HF-communications of all licenced services invoved (broadcast, land mobile radio, military, radio amateur service, government etc. etc.) will be severely disturbed by PLC technology. The standards are not taking into account the 'noiselevels' that exist upon which a receiver will discriminate a signal. Since the PLC-levels are very much above normal receiver-sensitivity, no normal HF-transmission can be listened to when PLC-technology is within 30 meters!

Since the services on the HF frequencies (that I've mentioned before) are licenced and primary users, interference from other usage need not be accepted. How are interference issues be resolved? Can a HF-broadcast listener effectively and legally ask the entire neighbourhood to stop using PLC?

I think, with current envirionmental rules in place and international treaties on frequency-use, we should not introduce PLC-technology, since there is no proof that interference with other - older - services does not take place. On the contrary: there is abundant proof available from both government agencies (like the dutch 'Agentschap Telecom': http://www.agentschap-telecom.nl/informatie/plc/plc_hme.html and for instance http://www.agentschap-telecom.nl/informatie/plc/docs/lezing%20NFO%20EMC%20analyse%20PLC.ppt), broadcasters (like 'Radio Netherlands':) and radio amateur societies (like the ARRL (USA): http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/ and VERON: http://www.darc.de/referate/emv/plc/VERON_PLC_Report.pdf).

Actual sound- and videoclips of interference of HF-communication by PLC technologies:

http://www.muenster.de/~dl5qe/plcaud4.mp3
http://www.muenster.de/~dl5qe/plcaud1.mp3
http://www.muenster.de/~dl5qe/plcaud2.mp3

And video:
http://www.qsl.net/dl5qe/plc_fulp.wmv Heavy interference, measured in Austria
http://www.qsl.net/dl5qe/plc_vide.rm
http://www.addx.org/plc/france.avi

(Source: http://www.addx.de/plc/plc.php)

I respectfully ask you to disallow PLC to enter the powerlines, in order to avoid interference to established, licenced services. And I would like you to inform me about the outcome of your survey.

I am a licenced radio amateur and want to keep on using the HF-frequencies that I am licenced to use!

Yours truly,

ir. Rene Altena MSc IE
Ganzerik 5
NL-7443 TK Nijverdal
The Netherlands
VERON-member
Radio amateur call signs: PE1RA / ON6ALD