

**FRANK R. WOLF**

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN—COMMERCE-JUSTICE-  
STATE AND JUDICIARY

HOMELAND SECURITY

TRANSPORTATION-TREASURY  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

CO-CHAIR—CONGRESSIONAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

September 17, 2003

241 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610  
(202) 225-5136

13873 PARK CENTER ROAD  
SUITE 130  
HERNDON, VA 20171  
(703) 709-5800  
(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET  
WINCHESTER, VA 22601  
(540) 667-0990  
(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

[www.house.gov/wolf/](http://www.house.gov/wolf/)

Mr. Mark Johnson  
20397 Altavista Way  
Ashburn VA 20146

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am enclosing the response to my inquiry on your behalf to the Federal Communications Commission. I hope that this reply answers all your questions.

Please review the information provided, and if you have additional questions or require further assistance, feel free to contact me.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress

FRW:jsm

Enclosure(s)

SEP 17 2003



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

September 10, 2003

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf  
U.S. House of Representative  
13873 Park Center Road  
Suite 130  
Herndon, Virginia 22501

Dear Congressman Wolf:

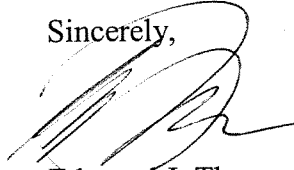
Thank you for your letter dated August 18, 2003 on behalf of Mr. Mark Johnson. In his letter, Mr. Johnson expresses concern that Broadband over Power Line (BPL) would have an adverse impact on reliable communications within the high frequency band. Mr. Johnson asserts that many amateur radio operators, as well as other licensed spectrum users, would be affected by BPL. Mr. Johnson urges the Commission to fully consider all the variables involved in the implementation of BPL.

The Commission's existing rules already provide for carrier current systems (CCS), which are devices that use existing power lines for communication. BPL is a type of carrier current system that is capable of providing high-speed communications. Because BPL could provide additional competition in the offering of broadband services to American consumers, and bring Internet and high-speed broadband access to rural and underserved areas, the Commission has issued a *Notice of Inquiry Regarding Carrier Current Systems, including Broadband over Power Line Systems* (NOI) in ET Docket 03-104 (rel. April 28, 2003) to evaluate BPL. The comment deadline was July 7, 2003, and the reply comment deadline was August 20, 2003.

In this proceeding, the Commission has solicited comments to evaluate the existing rules for CCS and the impact of potential changes on other spectrum users, such as those mentioned by Mr. Johnson. The Commission staff is diligently reviewing over four thousand (4000) comments and replies that have been filed in this docket. In addition, the Commission is analyzing experimental BPL systems to assess compatibility with present spectrum users. Once complete, the Commission will then determine whether to move forward with a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM).

As Mr. Johnson's comments were filed in this proceeding, they will be fully considered by the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edmund J. Thomas', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Edmund J. Thomas  
Chief  
Office of Engineering & Technology