

North Shore Emergency Management Office

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November 15, 2005

Director General, Spectrum Engineering Branch
Industry Canada
300 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C8

Subject: Canada Gazette Notice SMSE-005-05 of July 19, 2005
Consultation Paper on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Communications Systems

Dear Sir/Madam;

The North Shore Emergency Management Office is the agency responsible for emergency planning and operations for the City of North Vancouver, and the Districts of West Vancouver and North Vancouver. A vital part of our emergency teams are the approximately 90 Amateur Radio Operators who provide radio communications during emergencies or other crises. These operators make use of the authorized High Frequency and Very High Frequency channels during local disasters, as well as message handling during distant emergencies such as the Okanagan forest fires in 2003, and the recent Tsunami and Gulf of Mexico disasters, when most of the operations were conducted on HF channels.

We have been made aware of the above Gazette Notice regarding BPL, and we understand that some forms of this technology create severe interference across the HF and low VHF spectrum, thus rendering these channels incapable of supporting communication by radio.

We are not expert in understanding all the issues in the Gazette document, but we wish to emphasize that our agency, together with similar Emergency Management Offices across British Columbia, values the communications expertise and services of radio amateurs very highly. We thus look to Industry Canada to protect the spectrum that is vital for use by amateur radio operators in communicating with distant stations.

We are not opposed to the Department in developing the BPL technology to further the ability of citizens to receive broad-band signals. However, such new technology must not be introduced at the expense of interfering with an existing and vital resource such as the HF and VHF spectrum that is needed by amateur radio and other users.

Sincerely,

Jody Sydor
Director, North Shore Emergency Management Office

cc/NSARC