



November 28, 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

The Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) is a committee of Emergency Management professionals from local authorities, utilities, post secondary institutions and healthcare with emergency planning responsibilities in the Greater Vancouver Region.

Many of our members have worked to establish and support strong links with Amateur Radio organizations in our communities, which may be required to facilitate communications in disaster incidents. Their functions may require Amateur Radio personnel to assist in movement of emergency messages within municipalities, between municipalities and between municipalities and the Province, clearly requiring the use of all existing Amateur frequencies across all Bands.

We have been made aware of the above Gazette Notice regarding Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) Communications, and we understand that some forms of this technology create severe interference across the HF and the lower end of VHF spectrum, rendering those frequencies inoperable.

We are not opposed to the development of the BPL technology in order to increase the public's access to improved broadband signals, but such new technology must be introduced only after adequate consideration has given to the need to protect existing and vital resource such as the HF and VHF spectrum needed by Amateur Radio and other users.

We recognize the importance of Amateur Radio communications in Emergency Management and feel that it is critical to ensure that frequencies assigned to Radio Amateurs remain free of interference from any source. We trust that Industry Canada will continue to uphold its responsibility to protect all areas of the spectrum, particularly those areas important to supporting communications during a major emergency or disaster in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Sheena Vivian  
Chair  
Regional Emergency Planning Committee  
Greater Vancouver BC Region

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