

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER KATHLEEN Q. ABERNATHY**

Re: Carrier Current Systems, including Broadband over Power Line Systems; ET Docket No. 03-104; Amendment of Part 15 Regarding New Requirements and Measurement Guidelines for Access Broadband over Power Line Systems; ET Docket No. 04-35, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on broadband over power line systems (BPL) is an important step forward in promoting the Commission's goal of facilitating the deployment of broadband services to all Americans. Moving toward commercial deployment of BPL systems also will further our goal of developing robust facilities-based competition. I want consumers to have a choice of multiple, facilities-based providers, such as cable, DSL, wireless, satellite, and to the extent possible, power line. We will not get there overnight, but the continuing development of BPL technology is a step in the right direction.

One of the key issues in this proceeding is the potential for harmful interference by BPL systems to licensed spectrum users. Based on the record, it is appropriate that we are proceeding cautiously. I support our tentative conclusion to craft technical rules that minimize the potential for harmful interference to existing licensees and also ensure that any instances of interference are quickly resolved. I look forward to reviewing the comments on these technical proposals and am hopeful that we will be able to develop rules that protect existing licensees from harmful interference, while enabling a promising new technology to move forward.