



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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**Joint Statement on Broadband Over Power Line Communications Services by  
Chairman Pat Wood, III, of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and  
Chairman Michael K. Powell of the Federal Communications Commission**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Federal Communications Commission have been examining the technology of broadband over power line communications services (BPL) and its ability to improve communications for the American public and enhance power supply system management.

By this joint statement, Chairman Pat Wood, III of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Chairman Michael K. Powell of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) agree that BPL holds great promise for the American public.

Specifically, FERC Chairman Wood and FCC Chairman Powell believe:

- that ubiquitous broadband deployment is important to the economic, educational, social, medical, and cultural welfare of the country. In order to achieve this goal, national policies should facilitate rapid deployment of all broadband technologies, including BPL. Policymakers at all levels should coordinate their efforts to promote a minimally intrusive policy framework for such technologies.
- that the provision of high-speed communications capabilities over utility poles and electric power lines (Access BPL) provides an opportunity to increase the competitive broadband choices that are available to customers and the power supply system management options of utilities.
- that Access BPL may help provide additional power supply system communications and control capabilities to improve reliability and efficiency. Such capabilities include “self-healing” network capabilities; improved security from physical and cyber threats; facilitating use of distributed generation; customer and utility control of appliances and equipment energy use; improved load management and electric grid utilization; and such applications as automated meter reading, extension of supervisory control and data acquisition functions to the end user level, outage detection, and equipment performance monitoring.
- that these services should be allowed to develop according to market demands with minimal regulation.

Therefore, Chairman Wood and Chairman Powell urge:

- utilities to pursue new and developing technologies, such as BPL, that will foster greater customer options in broadband, provide more efficient management of the power supply system, and ensure increased operational reliability.
- utilities to appropriately allocate revenues and costs related to new technologies, such as Access BPL, between regulated and unregulated functions.

In addition, Chairman Wood and Chairman Powell agree to:

- continue to encourage the development of new technologies that provide additional competitive broadband options, promote continued U.S. leadership in broadband technology, and improve power supply system security, reliability, and efficiency.
- monitor experience with Access BPL to ensure that existing regulations do not stifle the development of this nascent technology.

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