

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

Re: Carrier Current Systems, including Broadband over Power Line Systems; ET Docket No. 03-104; Amendment of Part 15 Regarding New Requirements and Measurements for Access Broadband over Power Line; ET Docket No. 04-37, Notice of Proposed Rule Making

Another broadband pipe is coming closer to reality. Despite increasing access to broadband services, significant areas of the country still lack any type of broadband access or competition among broadband service providers. The NPRM we adopt today takes an important step towards promoting the deployment of a promising new technology – Broadband over Power Line or BPL. I have witnessed first-hand the potential of BPL to provide a new platform for the deployment of high-speed access operating under the Commission’s existing Part 15 rules. Even today almost a dozen companies are conducting field tests around the country. BPL is currently being studied and deployed in a number of these communities, including in our own backyard in Manassas, Virginia.

Companies have struggled for years to make BPL a success and I am struck by the recent advancements and hurdles that have been overcome to provide enhanced services, more choices, and lower prices for our Nation’s consumers.

BPL technology could also improve the provision and management of electric power systems, homeland security, and protect vital elements of our Nation’s critical infrastructure. Moreover, BPL is being developed worldwide, and encouraging the deployment of the technology in the U.S. will promote continued U.S. leadership in broadband technology, and bring important benefits to the American public.

I am confident that the proposals we adopt today balance the potential benefits of BPL services and give careful consideration of the potential interference from BPL operations by establishing new requirements that will help minimize harmful interference that may occur and guidelines for measurement of radio frequency (RF) emissions from carrier current systems.

I am optimistic and welcome the day when every electrical outlet will have the potential to offer high-speed broadband and a plethora of high-tech applications to all Americans.