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**National
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**NTIA FILES COMMENTS WITH FCC ON BROADBAND OVER POWER LINE
SYSTEMS**

Recommends Commission's Rulemaking proceed without delay

The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration today filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) providing technical guidance for the responsible deployment of broadband over power line (BPL) systems and urging the Commission to complete its BPL rulemaking proceeding without delay.

On April 26, President Bush called for the establishment of technical standards to make possible new broadband technologies such as the use of high speed communications directly over power lines. On April 27, NTIA released a Phase One study that examined the potential interference to federal government radio systems that could result from the deployment of BPL, and identified appropriate techniques that will mitigate this interference.

Today's comments build upon the results of NTIA's Phase One study by providing technical analysis of the issues raised in the FCC's BPL Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). NTIA's comments, together with the rules proposed in the FCC's NPRM will reduce the risk of interference to critical federal radiocommunication systems, and provide a firm technical foundation for the responsible deployment of BPL.

"The cooperative efforts of the FCC and NTIA will contribute significantly toward fulfillment of the President's vision for universal affordable broadband Internet access for all Americans by 2007," said Acting NTIA Administrator Michael D. Gallagher.

NTIA's comments endorse the Commission's proposed field strength limits and provide recommendations for reducing the risk of interference to authorized radiocommunication systems. Specifically, NTIA recommends the use of mandatory power control, adoption of limited coordination areas and exclusion of critical frequency bands. NTIA also made recommendations regarding refinements to the FCC's proposed compliance measurement procedures for BPL systems.

NTIA expects to complete its Phase Two study later this year. However, in order to quickly address issues that have an immediate impact on the FCC's rulemaking, the most significant issues considered in the comprehensive Phase Two study are provided in a technical appendix of today's filing. NTIA expects its Phase Two study to complement any conclusions reached by the Commission and, therefore, recommends that the Commission's rulemaking proceed without delay.