

International Amateur Radio Union

ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF PLT WORK WITHIN THE UNION

1 Introduction

ITU-R Study Groups 5 and 6 have expressed concern over work undertaken within ITU-T with respect to power line telecommunications. Specifically, the adoption of Recommendation ITU-T G.9960, *Unified high-speed wire-line based home networking transceivers—Foundation*, was approved by ITU-T Study Group 15 in October 2009. Recommendation ITU-T G.9960 addresses PLT among other home networking technologies, suggesting PLT operation at frequencies not previously considered within ITU-R.

2 IARU Position and Proposal

IARU contends that work addressing power line telecommunications is rightly within the exclusive competency of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, and that future PLT work within the Union should be assigned to Study Groups within ITU-R.

ITU-R Study Group 1 has invested extensive effort in generating Report ITU-R SM.2158, *Impact of power line telecommunication systems*. This effort was necessary because PLT systems, which deliberately introduce radio frequency energy on unshielded, unbalanced conductors, inherently and unavoidably radiate such energy in their normal course of operation. Even though PLT is a wire-line technology, its use invariably impacts and rightfully concerns users of radio spectrum. Any valid analysis of power line telecommunications must necessarily consider its impact on radiocommunication, as required of administrations by the Radio Regulations.¹ Analysis of radiocommunication issues is the sole competency of ITU-R.

¹ RR 15.12: “Administrations shall take all practicable and necessary steps to ensure that the operation of electrical apparatus or installations of any kind, *including power and telecommunication distribution networks*, . . . does not cause harmful interference to a radiocommunication service” (emphasis added).

IARU acknowledges the competency of ITU-T in standards for traditional wire-line systems. However, PLT is a special case because of its inherent and unique impact on the radio spectrum. For this reason, IARU advises that future work within the Union involving power line telecommunications should be carried out exclusively by appropriate Working Parties within the Radiocommunication Sector. IARU recognizes that cross-sector coordination is desirable, and suggests that, in the future, interested ITU-T Working Parties be invited to contribute to the PLT work within competent ITU-R Working Parties.

IARU proposes that the RAG advise the Director of the BR to adopt this position with respect to the distribution of PLT work within the ITU.
