

In Brief: Calif. passes rules for BPL broadband

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The California Public Utilities Commission Thursday approved a package of guidelines for the development of broadband-over-power-line (BPL) projects.

The guidelines require projects to include pole-attachment fees, allow flexibility in third-party investments and maintain the reliability of the state's power transmission system.

BPL allows the transmission of broadband over electric power lines, clearing the way for electric utilities to offer Internet access to their customers through their home electric outlets.

"In taking a light touch approach to regulate BPL, this decision sets the table for electric utilities to bring a new flavor of broadband technology to Californians," said Commissioner Rachelle Chong.

The PUC said that BPL is already being offered under a few pilot projects in California, and the new guidelines should inspire further development.

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