



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **IBEC to Address Annual Mid-America Regulatory Commissioners Conference; Will Provide Utility Regulators Rural BPL Information and Service Update**

**HUNTSVILLE, AL: June 15, 2005** - International Broadband Electric Communications, Inc. (IBEC), the leading provider of broadband-over-powerline (BPL) solutions for rural America, today announced it has been invited to address the annual Mid-America Regulatory Commissioners (MARC) Conference to provide Commissioners with an update on Broadband-over-Powerline (BPL) technology and its role in providing rural America with broadband Internet Services. The MARC 2005 Conference will be held in Little Rock, AR, hosted by the Arkansas Public Service Commission, June 18-22, 2005, and will be attended by Public Service Commissioners, regulators, and interested parties from the fifteen-state region of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

As BPL becomes a significant provider of broadband services in the United States, state regulatory commissions are seeking to establish the proper regulatory environment for it - one that encourages free competition and the entry of this important "third wire" into the home and at the same time, protecting the interests of the citizens of their respective states. In particular, regulators are keenly interested in learning about BPL's promise to provide rural Americans with broadband Internet services, a goal of regulators nationwide. To this end, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) established the NARUC Broadband-over Power Lines Task Force in December 2003 to study this important issue and make recommendations regarding regulation and governance of BPL services. A particular focus of this Task Force is the impact and feasibility of BPL in rural America, and the Task Force recognizes IBEC's unique focus in serving rural America with its BPL solutions.

Steve Turner, IBEC's Chief Operating Officer, will address MARC 2005 on June 21, 2005, on the topic, "BPL - A Broadband Solution for Rural America." Turner will explain IBEC's technology and business model for rural BPL Internet services, highlighting IBEC's existing rural system deployments in Alabama, Indiana, and Virginia. He will also participate in a Panel Discussion on rural BPL, along with Public Service Commissioners from Indiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and North Dakota.

In addition to providing broadband Internet services, IBEC's network is useful to electric utilities by providing a secure, high-speed communication network that the utilities can use to monitor, manage, and maintain their networks, improving customer service and reducing the day-to-day operating costs of providing reliable energy to their customers. In a recent interview, Connie Hughes, a commissioner with New Jersey Board of Public Utilities noted, "BPL is very positive, because it can help pinpoint where there might be a breakdown in the grid. That's very important to a lot of people, particularly after the August 2003 blackout," which left approximately 50 million Americans without power.

IBEC's focus is on providing BPL services to the underserved residents of rural America - those citizens who are often neglected but who have the same broadband needs as those living in urban and suburban America. IBEC's goal is to build the broadband networks necessary to serve rural America and close the "digital divide" that exists between urban and rural America. IBEC provides high-speed, always-on Internet services similar to DSL and cable modem services, to rural customers at monthly prices starting as low as \$29.95. Unlike DSL and cable, BPL delivers broadband signals directly to every power outlet in a home or business served, making the Internet much easier to use and enjoy.

#### **About IBEC**

IBEC, Inc. is a full-service provider of broadband-over-powerline Internet access solutions and services, powerline-based security systems, and electric utility management and control solutions. IBEC's solutions are designed to provide superior broadband services to all utility customers, both urban and rural, by providing the most cost-effective, reliable, and easy-to-deploy BPL solution available. Via its innovative approach and solutions, IBEC is committed to *EmPOWERing the World's Broadband*®. For more information, contact IBEC at 2707 Artie Street SW, Building 300 - Suite 10, Huntsville, AL 35805, 256-492-1000, or via email at [info@ibec.net](mailto:info@ibec.net). On the Internet, visit IBEC at [www.ibec.net](http://www.ibec.net).