Power vs. Throughput

Part 97 Requirements and Their Impact on Phase 4 Ground Design

**Section 97.313 Transmitter power standards.**

1. **An amateur station must use the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications.**

This familiar regulation makes sense in a world of analog communications. Power is the currency that we exchange for range and intelligibility. It’s what allows us to bust up a pileup or bounce off the moon.

More operators can be accommodated on amateur bands if everyone uses the minimum transmitter power necessary to communicate. Power affects bandwidth occupancy. The goal here is to have more people communicating, and that is a very worthy goal.

If we take the goal of more people being able to communicate, and we move to the realm of digital communications, then is it still power that we should require operators to conserve?