Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M. Street NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20555

Re: FCC 98-208, ET DOCKET NO. 98153

Dear Ms. Salas:

MALA GeoScience USA, Inc. has become aware of the FCC Notice of Inquiry (NOI) regarding Revision of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules regarding Ultra-Wideband Transmission Systems. Of particular concern is Paragraph 7 concerning ground penetrating radar (GPR).

GPR has been widely used in the US and abroad since the 1970's and is a state of the art tool for use in subsurface investigations. Applications include high-resolution investigations of roads, bridges, runways, trackbeds, dams, pipelines and other structures. Other applications include the detection and accurate location of buried features such as contamination zones, voids, metallic and non-metallic utilities and other buried objects. Geotechnical studies include pre-construction site assessments, profiling of lake bottoms, river crossings, bridge foundations (for scour features), soil horizons, water tables, bedrock and other geologic features.

It has been a particularly valuable tool for the detection of UXO, land mines, buried hazardous wastes, the inspection of roads, bridges, dams, nuclear power plants, buried utilities and other essential infrastructure. In many cases only GPR has the unique capability and resolution of non-destructively detecting buried objects such as plastic land mines, plastic natural gas and water lines and mapping small scale soil structure for agricultural research to name a few.

During the past 15 years I personally have applied GPR in airports, nuclear power plants, military installations, D.O.E. facilities, inside and outside factories and other buildings, in both urban and rural settings. Never has there been an occasion where the GPR system caused any type of interference to other devices or operations during any of these studies.

To the contrary, GPR systems are sensitive to external interference from cell phones, FM radios and television stations, notebook computers, digital telemetry systems, and kinematic differential global positioning systems, (GPS) which adversely effect our acquired data.

The average radiated power and duty cycles of most GPR systems are several orders of magnitude less than CB radios, FM radios, cell phones, and other similar devices that are pervasive in our society.

The newly proposed regulations would adversely affect the entire GPR industry by making the use of the technology prohibitively expensive. It would virtually eliminate one of the most important shallow investigative tools available for studying the nation's infrastructure, environmental contamination and water quality and water supply. Additionally, worker safety in geotechnical, environmental and military projects can be adversely affected.

Therefore we respectfully submit that the proposed rule changes will have a detrimental effect on an entire industry and we are OPPOSED to the proposed changes.

Respectfully yours,

MALA GeoScience USA, Inc.

Thomas J. Fenner
President