



ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

November 10, 2000

RECEIVED  
NOV 21 2000  
FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Ultra-Wideband (ET Docket 98-153)

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Rural Health Clinics regarding the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning Ultra-wideband (UWB) radio transmission.

Health care providers are becoming increasingly aware of the tremendous potential for wireless technology in the clinic environment. Ultra-wideband offers low cost, high speed wireless connectivity for LANs in the critical first or last feet within Rural Health Clinics. UWB could help clinics avoid costly and disruptive interior wiring projects and allow our clinicians to use a variety of monitors, laptops and other devices in a highly mobile environment.

While technology has not invaded the rural clinic environment to the extent found in more populated areas, clinics are increasingly, looking for ways to use technology. This is particularly true with respect to electronic patient medical records and patient information. Health care providers in RHCs are learning more about how technology can facilitate medical specialty consults, second opinions, the transmission of critical data to and from emergency units, and to provide decision support at the point of care where it is especially vital.

It is our understanding that UWB could greatly enhance the development of "e-Health" applications, helping to improve both clinical performance and administrative efficiency. We also believe that through improved charting and by bringing knowledge sources and medical databases via Internet connectivity through wireless LANs to the exam room, we can also potentially reduce medical errors.

426 C Street, NE  
Washington, DC  
20002  
Tel: (202) 543-0348  
Fax: (202) 543-2565

Digitized by  
MADGE

Finally, secure, wireless connectivity to a LAN will help ensure safe, reliable, and accurate transmission of patient care records and other sensitive data required by the administrative simplification provisions of the federal Health Insurance and Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

In short, we are encouraged by the prospects for UWB, and look forward to helping develop and implement useful clinical and administrative applications for Rural Health Clinics and the patients they serve.

We hope that the Federal Communications Commission will favorably view the possibilities of UWB for healthcare in its rulemaking activities. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Finerfrock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bill Finerfrock  
Executive Director

NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF



426 C Street, NE  
Washington, DC  
20002

RECEIVED  
NOV 21 2000  
FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary, Federal Communications  
Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W  
Washington, DC 20554

