

February 4, 2002

Mr. William F. Caton  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W. TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notification and Summary, Revision of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules  
Regarding Ultra-Wideband Transmission Systems, ET Docket No. 98-153

Dear Mr. Caton:

On February 1, 2002 the following individuals had a conference call with Bryan Tramont, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Abernathy: Rich Nowakowski, Coordinator of Special Projects, City of Chicago, Office of Emergency Communications, Research and Development Section; Anneliese Germain, Siemens Corporate Research; Mark Fobare, CEO of Tiercent, based in New York; and Kim Schneider, Mindbeam LLC.

Rich Nowakowski described the importance of ultrawideband technology for firefighting and public safety applications from the perspective of First Responders. He described an emergency situation in Chicago in August 2001, where an assailant was hiding out in a building. A police officer, posing as a delivery person, went to the door to attempt his arrest. When the fugitive answered, he grabbed the officer, dragged him inside and then shot him in the head. This situation was particularly complicated, as the fugitive had his wife and children in the room with him. See-through-wall technology, using ultrawideband, would have enabled officers to locate the fugitive, and more quickly and safely rescue the critically injured police officer, while reducing the threat of injury to SWAT team members. Mr. Nowakowski explained that the approval of UWB at sufficient power levels and at frequencies that enable see-through-wall imaging applications is critical for state and local emergency personnel.

The group also discussed the importance of state and local public safety officials being able to use this technology without time-consuming coordination procedures, which would seriously limit its use in emergency situations.

Participants described how UWB's precise tracking and positioning features, combined with its data transmission capabilities, support a dramatic advance in firefighting technology. Opponents of UWB have urged the FCC to limit UWB's power for operation to well below the current Part 15 general limits. This restriction would eliminate the ability to provide through-wall tracking and positioning, which is essential for tracking firefighters in three dimensions in order to locate them within a multistory structure. Similarly, UWB opponents have asked the FCC to restrict

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UWB to indoor environments. This would severely hamper use of this technology for public safety, since firefighter applications require outdoor use of UWB by public safety personnel in order to support tactical command of the fire, which is managed outside the building. UWB provides the ability to track the location of people inside a building where GPS services do not reach.

Finally, some have suggested that UWB be limited to only public safety use. The meeting participants explained that commercial deployment is necessary to bring the cost of these technologies within the reach of local public safety agencies.

Mr. Nowakowski responded to questions that have been raised in this proceeding about possible interference with other services, including public safety services. He emphasized that while public safety officers are always concerned about the potential impact of a new technology on existing operations, that it is essential for local and state public safety officials who are often the first to respond to emergency situations to have access to new life saving technologies that are already in use by many federal agencies.

The group expressed the view that UWB technology can bring a dramatic improvement in the safety of First Responders and emergency personnel and strongly urged the Commission to approve UWB to allow for these important uses.

Sincerely,

Kristan Van Hook

Mindbeam, LLC