

FHH Telecom Law
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Ultra-Wideband
Rules Survive

By: Mitchell Lazarus
703-812-0440
lazarus@fhhlaw.com

The FCC's third visit to the rules governing unlicensed ultra-wideband (UWB) devices made only minor changes. Now in its seventh year, the proceeding has been fueled throughout by the continuing opposition of PCS and other spectrum licensees to the FCC's allowing low-level UWB signals in their spectrum. The new order once again brushes off their concerns, and also permits two new types of operation.

First, the FCC allowed devices having less than the minimum bandwidth of 500 MHz to operate under the UWB rules, but only in the range 6925-7250 MHz. Second, the FCC will now allow UWB vehicle back-up radars at 16.2-17.7 GHz and frequency-hopping vehicular radars 23.12-29.0 GHz.

Even now, the proceeding is not over. The FCC has indicated it will issue yet another Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, this one potentially to expand the range of modulations that UWB devices are permitted to employ.