



# **Underground Utility Detection, Technology, Limitation & Solutions For Today and Future Development**

**“Technology And Application  
Towards Sustainable Development”**

**Presented by** : Ricky Douglas Goh  
(Technical Support and Application)

**Date** : 29<sup>th</sup> Aug 2013



**RDG SUPPLY SDN. BHD.**

*One stop station for underground Utility Detection,  
Inspection & Maintenance Technologies*

[www.rdg.com.my](http://www.rdg.com.my)





**PIONEERING  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
AND  
ECO FRIENDLY COUNTRY  
THROUGH  
GOOD ENGINEERING PRACTIC,  
TECHNOLOGY AND  
APPLICATION**

# Contents

- Why need underground utility detection?
- What are the technologies used for construction of utility & technologies used for utility detection?
- Limitation of technology!
- **Solutions to overcome HDD installed pipeline and duct as-built information requirement..**

# We need underground utility detection and information for...

- To aim for ZERO INTERRUPTION to buried utility due to third party negligence!
- To ensure EXACAVATION SAFETY!
- Utility damage PREVENTION!
- Project DESIGN!
- Project COSTING and budgeting!
- GOOD ENGINEERING PRACTICE for effective, sustainable and environmental friendly maintenance requirements!
- Etc...

# What info that UT detection and mapping given... ?

- Where are the utilities ?  
(location and alignment)
- Is there any power cable or oil & gas pipe?  
(high profile utility)
- What is it buried depth?  
(Estimation depth reference)

# Installation/construction of underground infrastructures



Open Trench

# Microtrenching



# Trenchless Technology (TT)



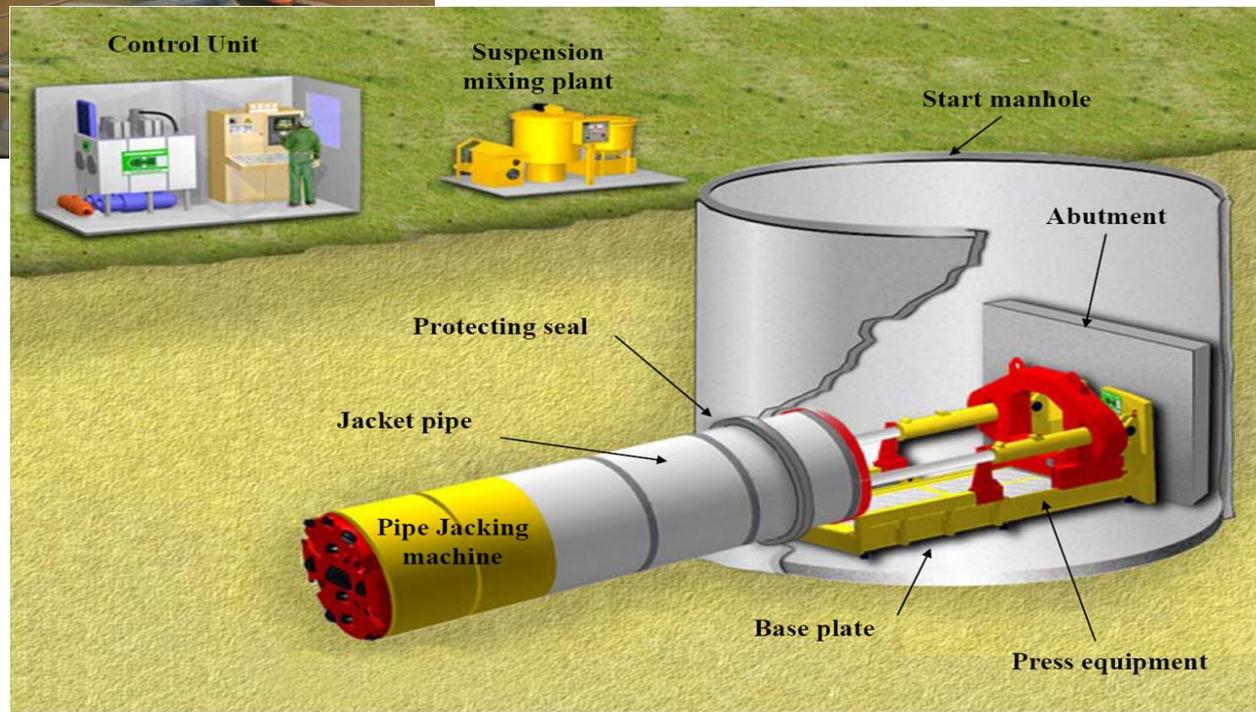
- HDD-Horizontal Directional Drilling



# Trenchless Technology (TT)



- Pipe Jacking



# Underground Cable



# See What Happen When You Go Through An Electricity Cable...!



# See What Happen When You Go Through An Electricity Cable...!



Tarnished and jeopardized of city image by  
primitive maintenance approach!  
(Unnecessary by-pass cables)





**Oops!!**



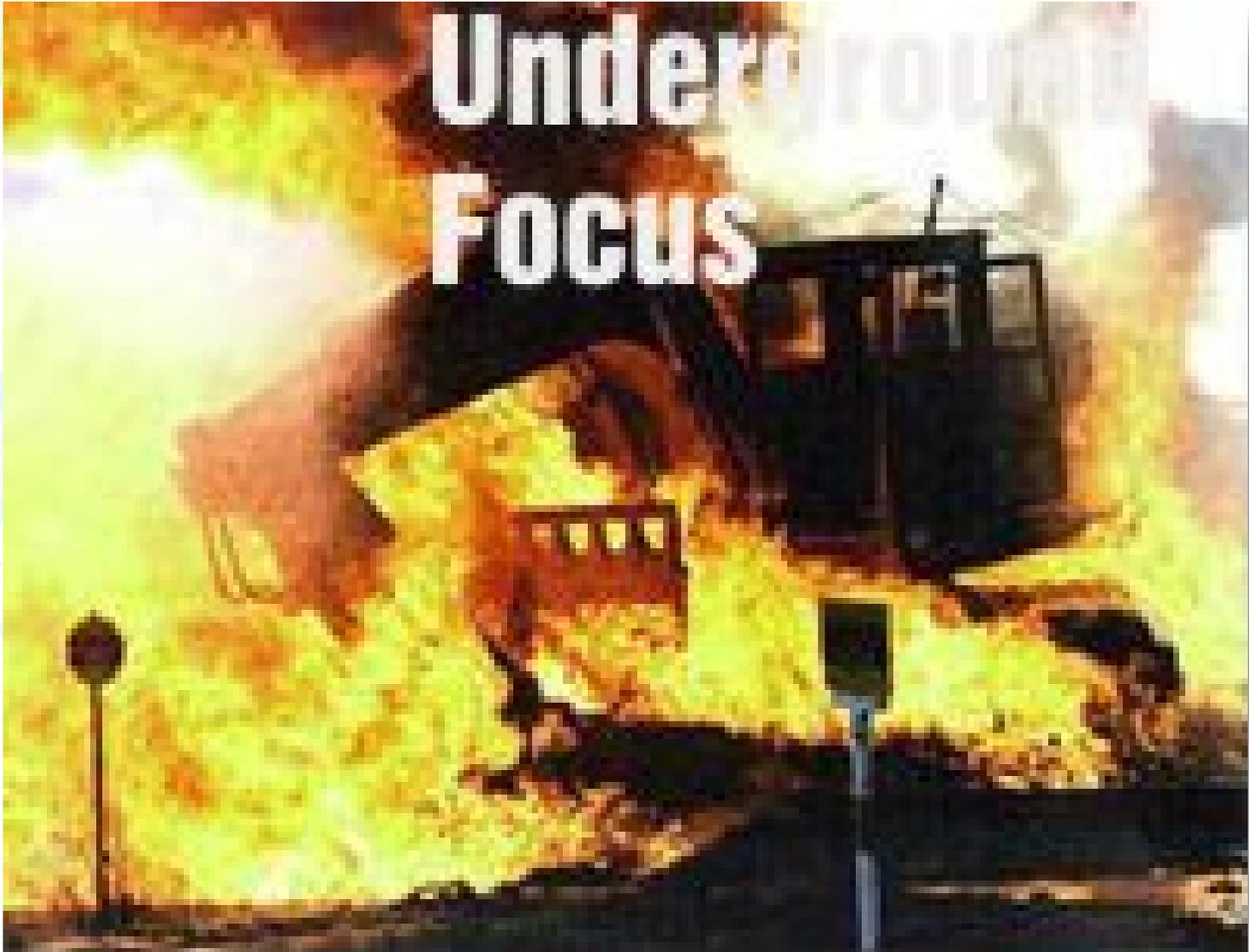
**DANGER - High Voltage!**

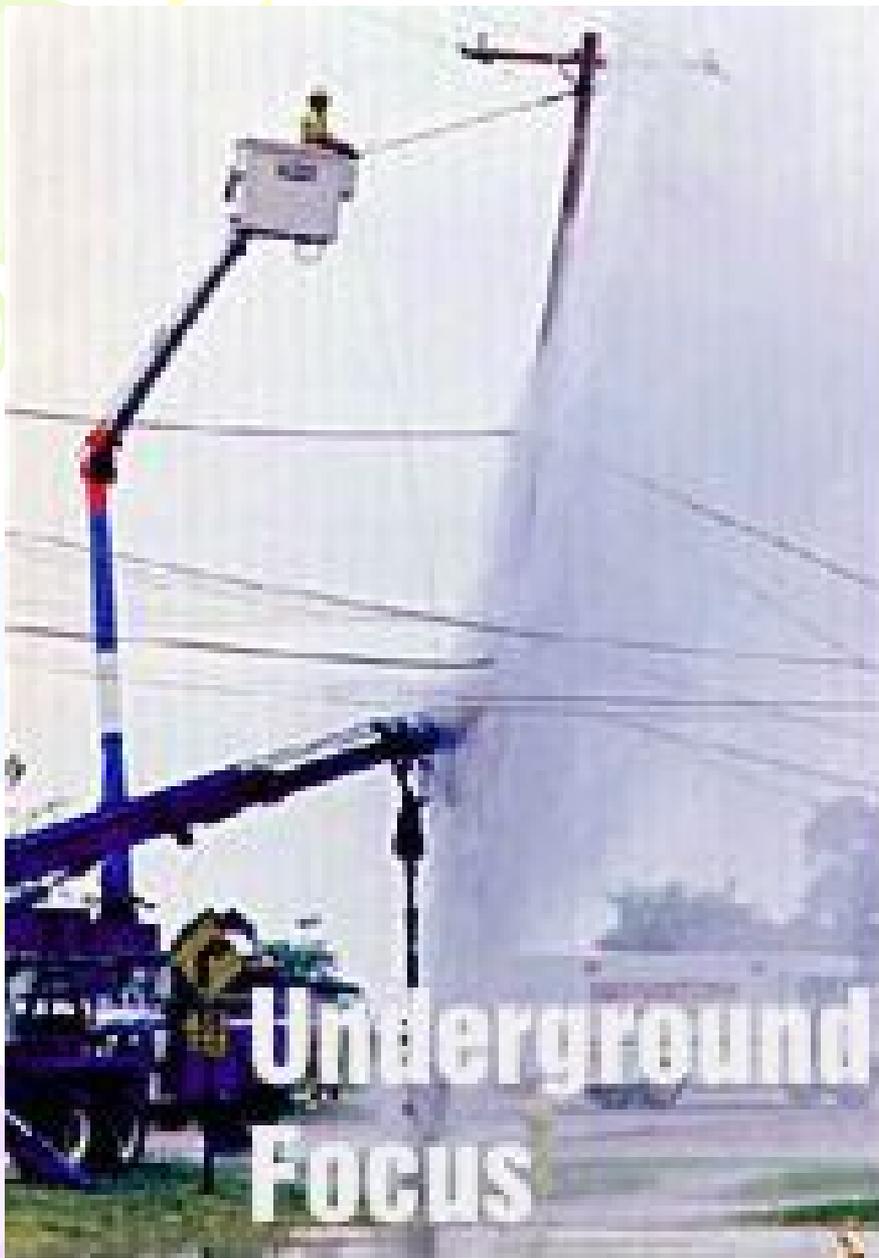
**This practice has to be stopped immediately!**

# Environmental and Health Impact...Gas Pipe Explosion



# Underground FOCUS





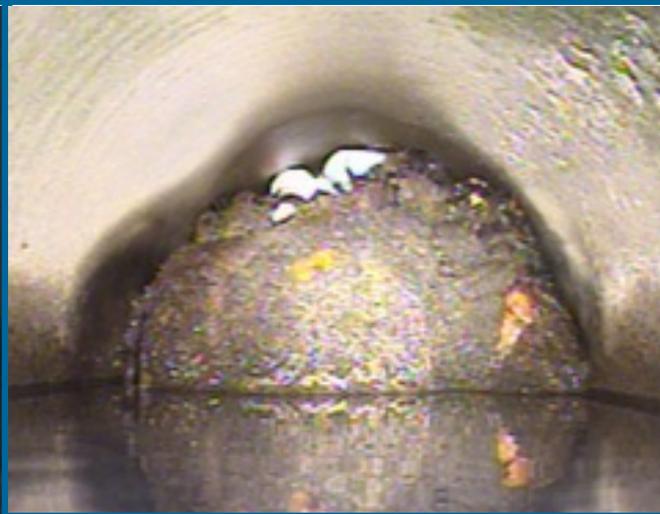
**EXCAVATOR HIT  
ON WATER PIPE  
CAUSED FLOOD  
AND WATER  
SUPPLY  
INTERRUPTION**



# Underground FOCUS



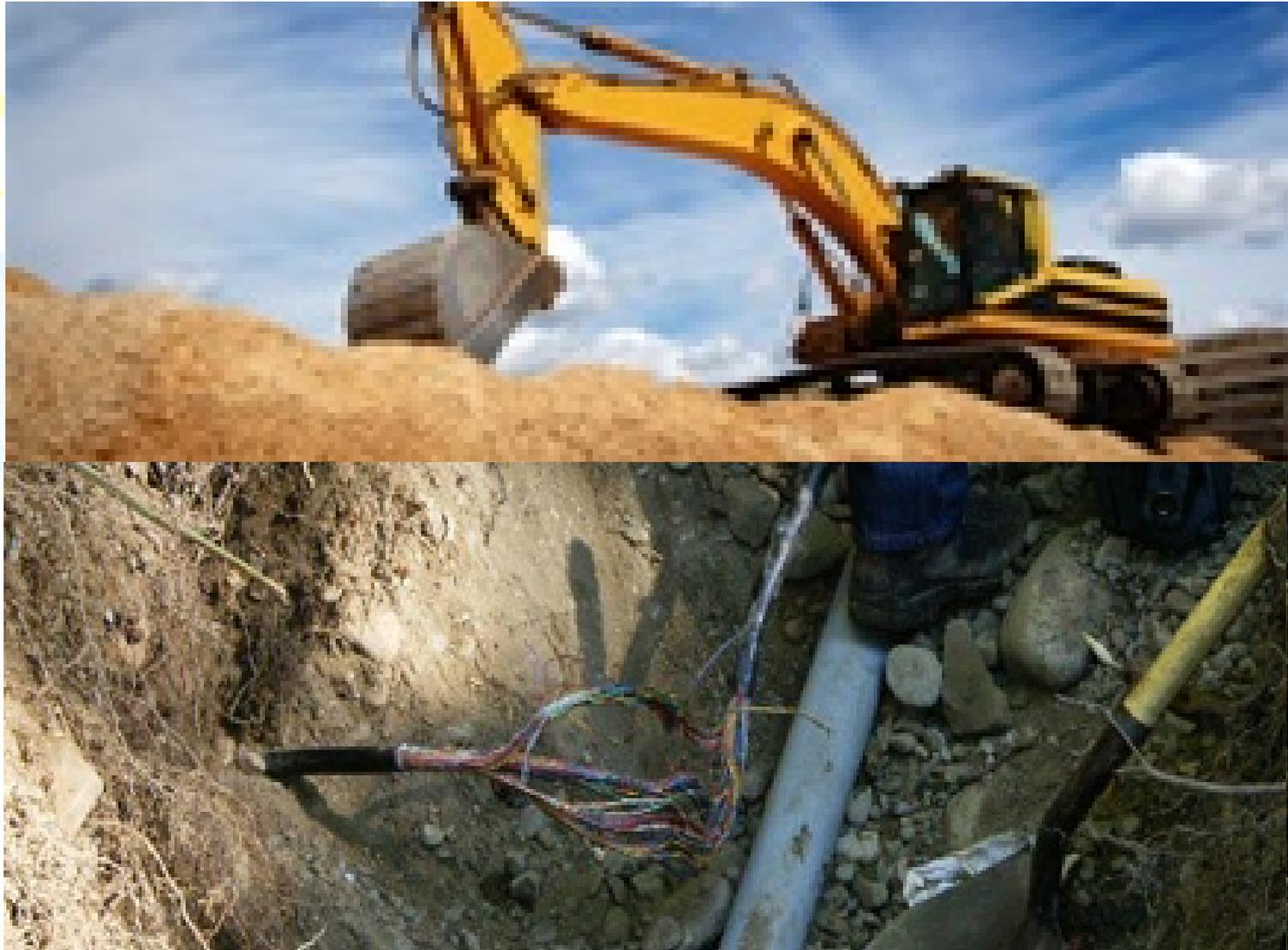
Over polluted of air quality and drainage blockage due to unnecessary excavation!



# Damaged to drainage pipe due to negligence! (Fencing Pole)



Jeopardized the financial institution, insurer and nation's money from "negligence" contractors!



# Types of utility may be present on site...

- Power cables
- Oil & Gas pipes
- Communication cables
- Water pipes
- Sewer pipes
- Heating pipes
- Ventilation pipes
- Etc...

# Types of material used...

- **Pipes**

- Metallic** :MS, GI, DI, CI, Copper, Stainless steel & etc.

- Non-metallic**: AC, PVC, HDPE, MDPE..

- **Power cables** : Metallic

- **Communication cables**:

- Metallic**: Twisted copper pair

- Non-metallic**: Fibre Optic

# Technologies Available For Subsurface Utility Survey, Detection and Mapping

**“Total Solution”**

A yellow backhoe loader is the central focus of the image, positioned on a dirt and gravel construction site. The machine is angled towards the right. In the background, another yellow backhoe is visible, and the ground is uneven with some orange traffic cones. The overall scene is a typical construction or utility site. The text 'Total Solution' is overlaid in a large, bold, teal font across the middle of the image.

# Technologies use for UU detection...

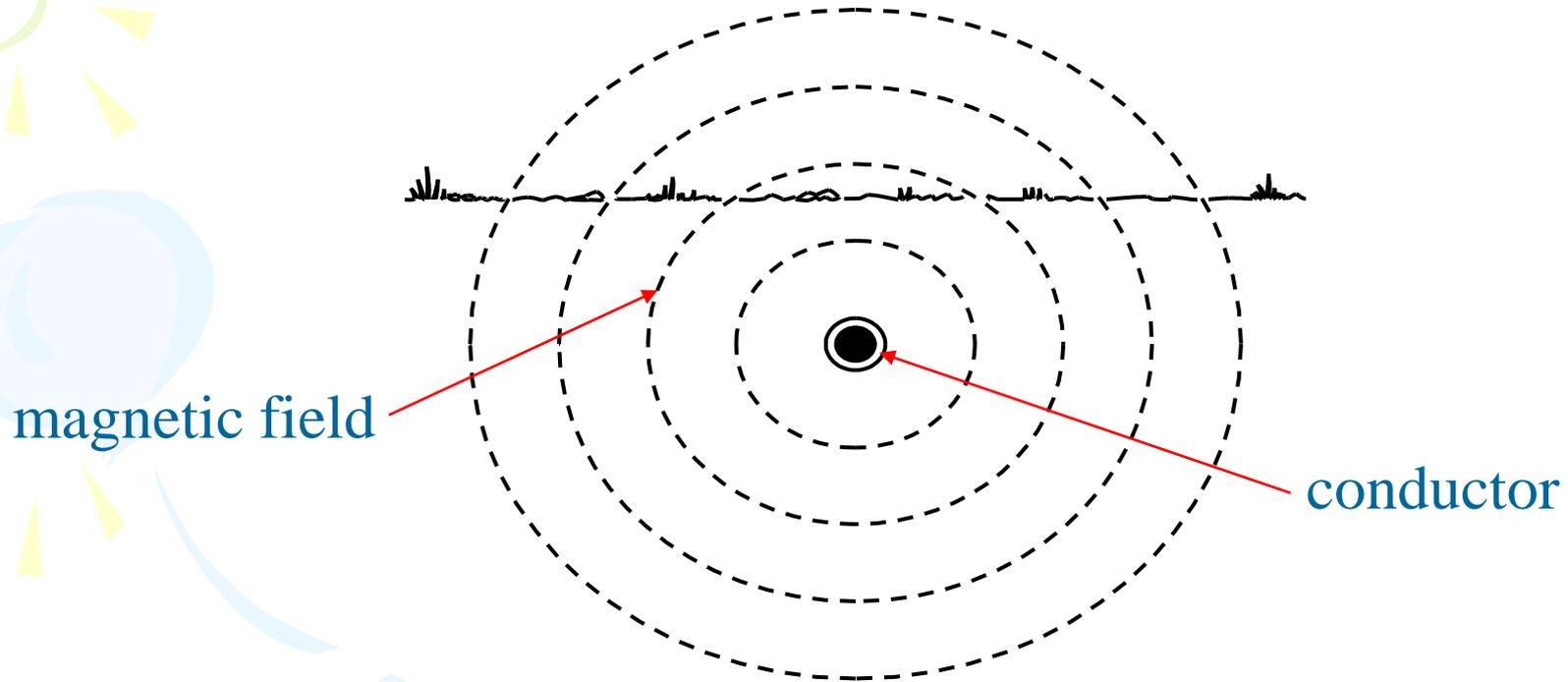
- EM Cable & Pipe Locator
- Flexi Rod and Sonde
- Flexi Trace
- Ground Penetration Radar (GPR)
- *\*Inertial Locator/Orientation Measurement Unit (OMU)*

## ***vLoc Pro2 Locator***

- DUAL CORE Processor for real time response and depth reading
- 5 antennas designed
- Standard come with >45 selectable frequencies
- Carbon fibre
- Built-in rechargeable battery
- Colour Dot Matrix Display
- Firmware Free Upgrade



# Magnetic field is ...

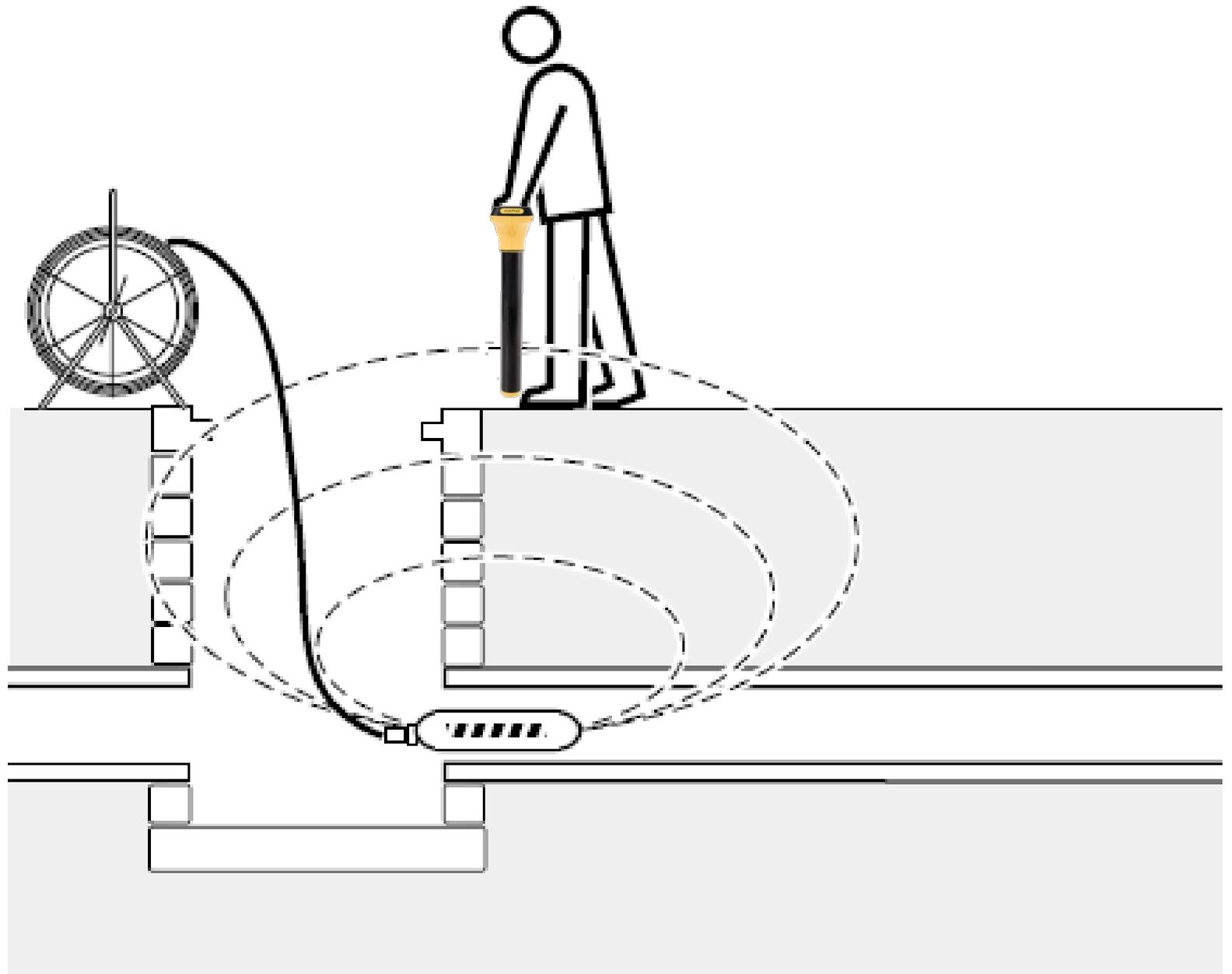
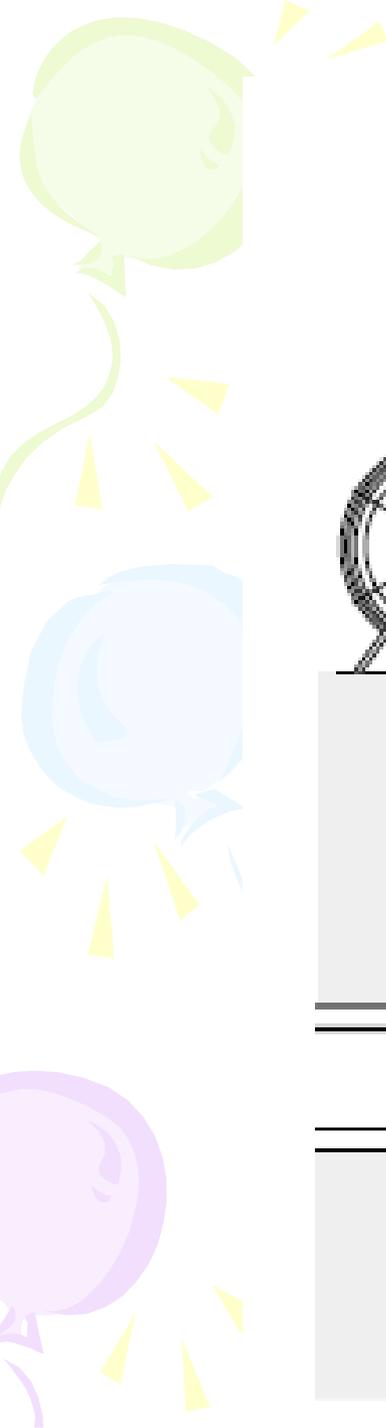


... radiated by a current carrying conductor

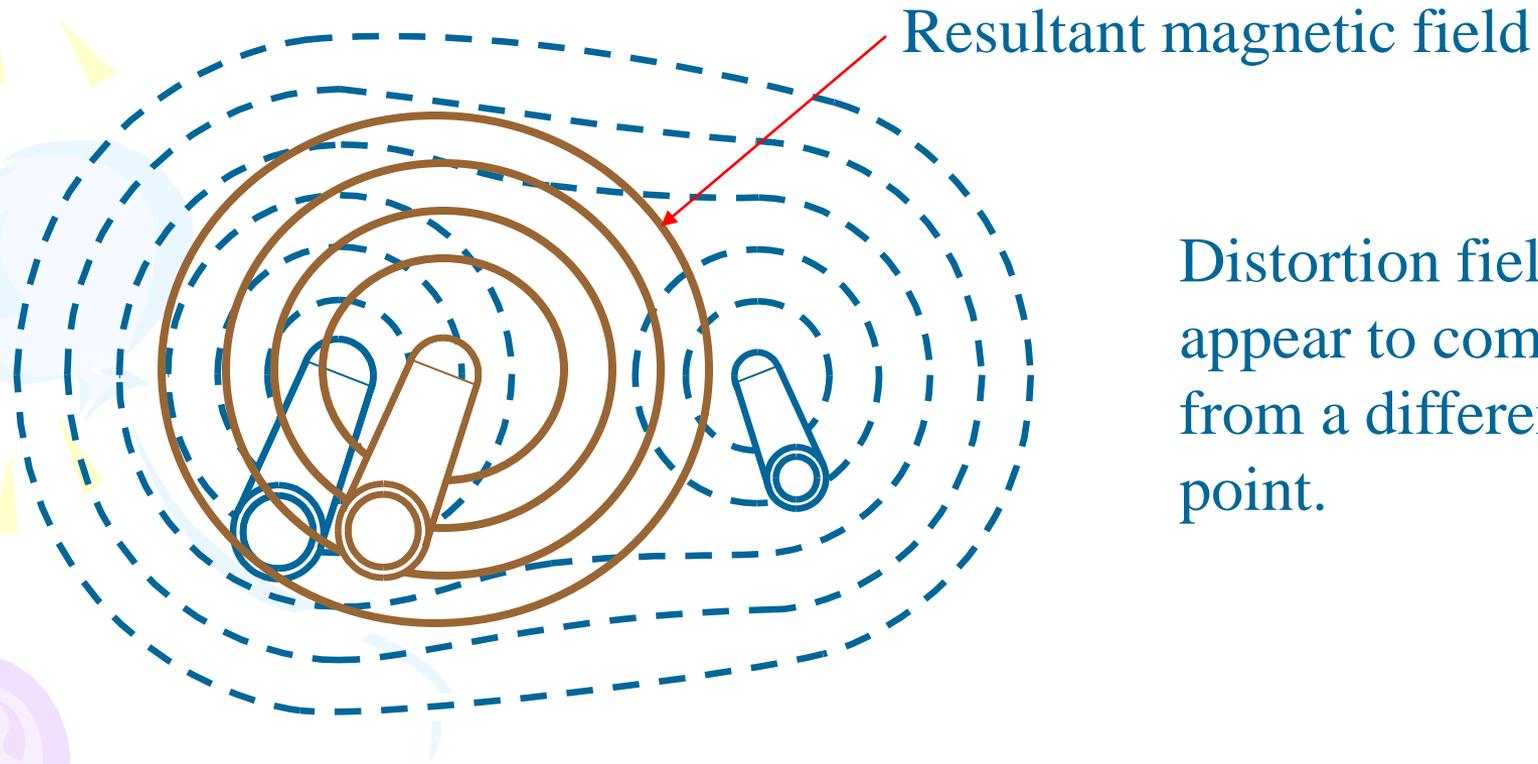
# Non-metallic Utility, Sewer or Duct



**Sonde**



# Limitation: Signal distortion



Distortion field may appear to come from a different point.

# GROUND PENETRATING RADAR (GPR)

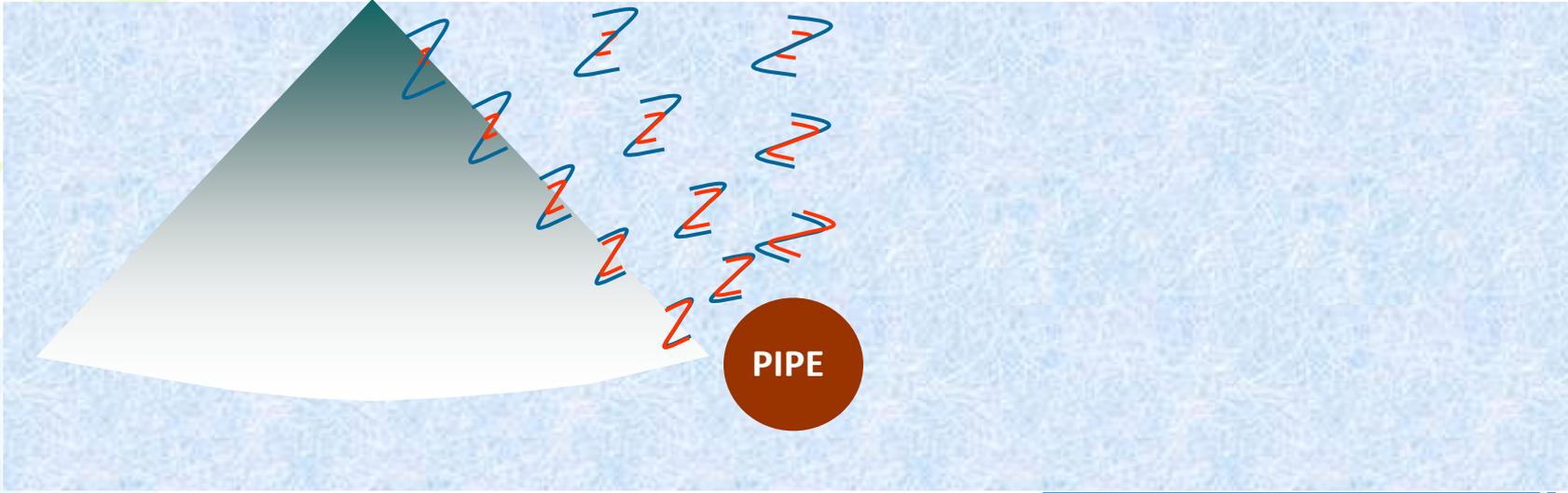
Simultaneous Dual Frequency  
2-in-1 High Resolution System



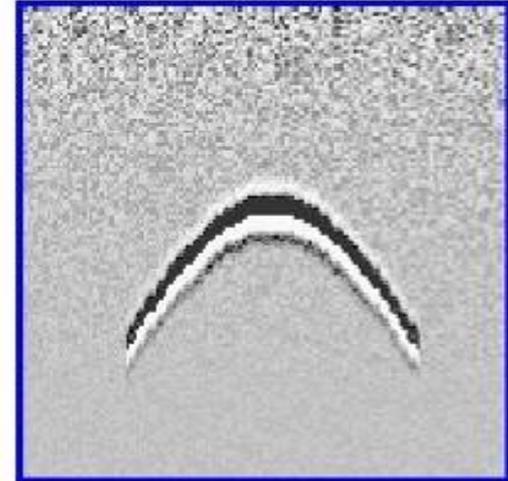
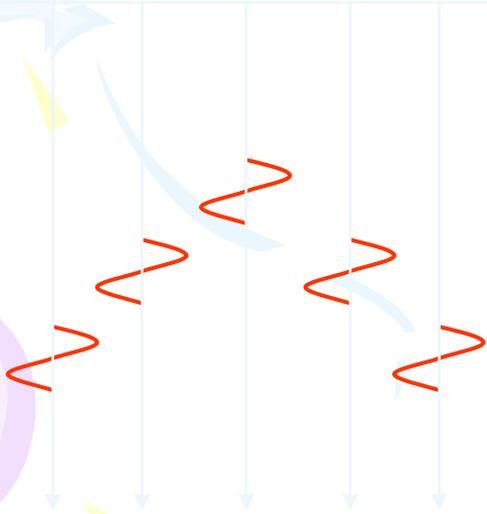


# TECHNOLOGY INTRODUCTION

Antenna

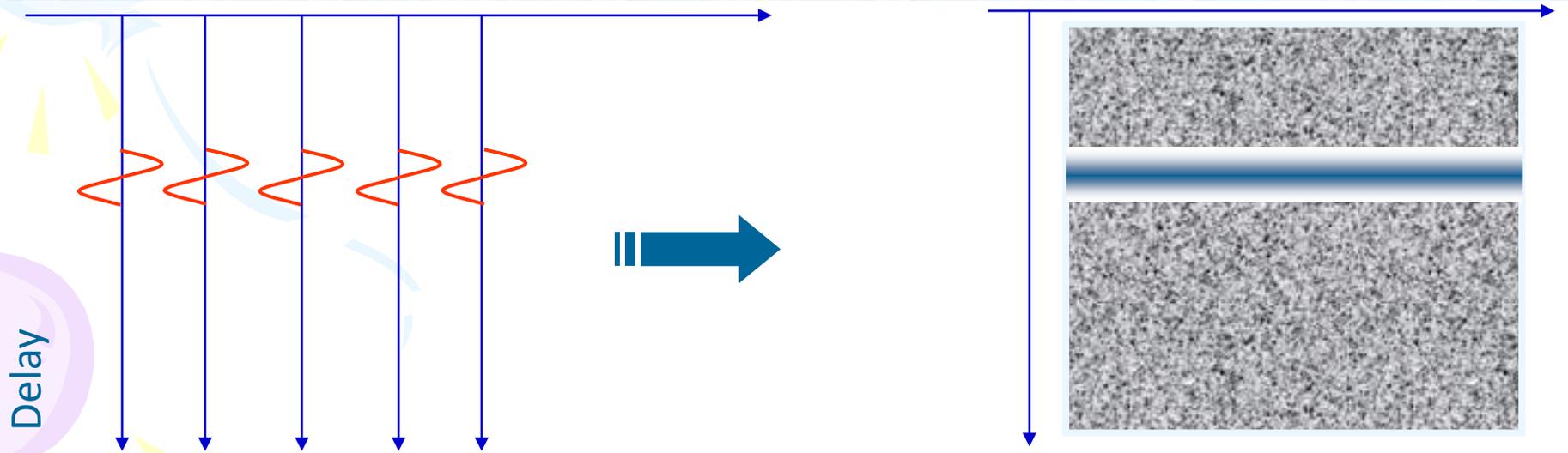
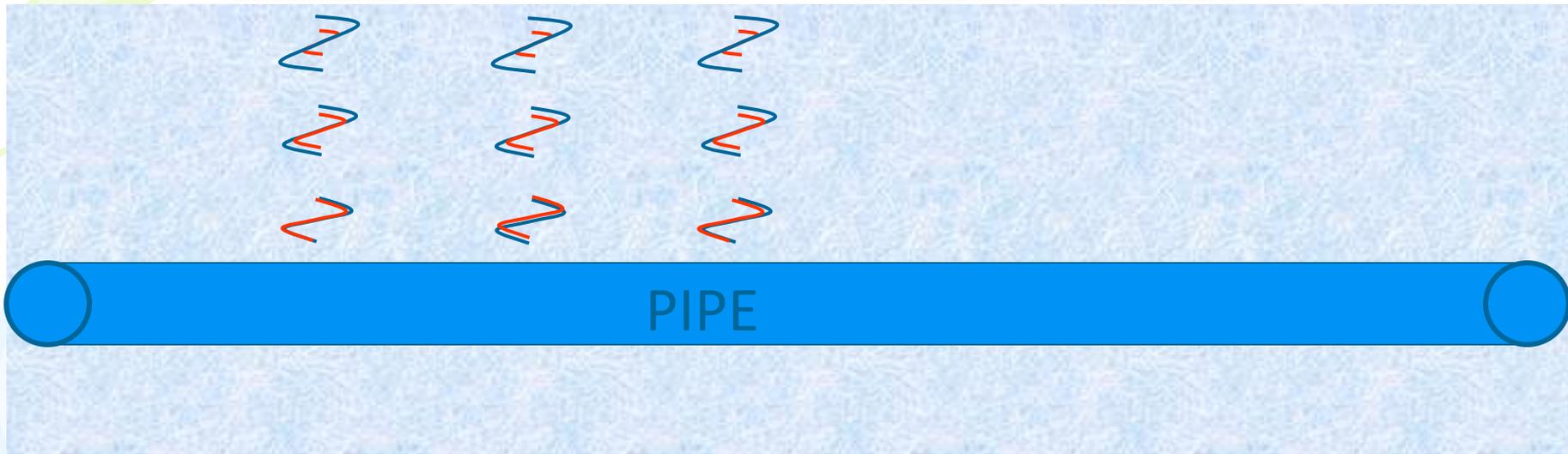
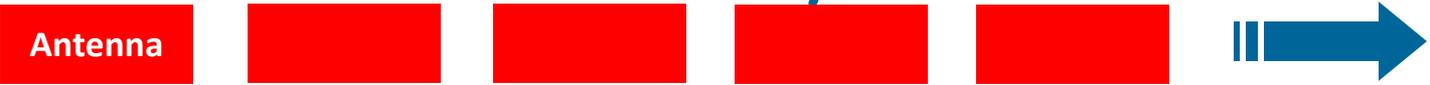


Delay time

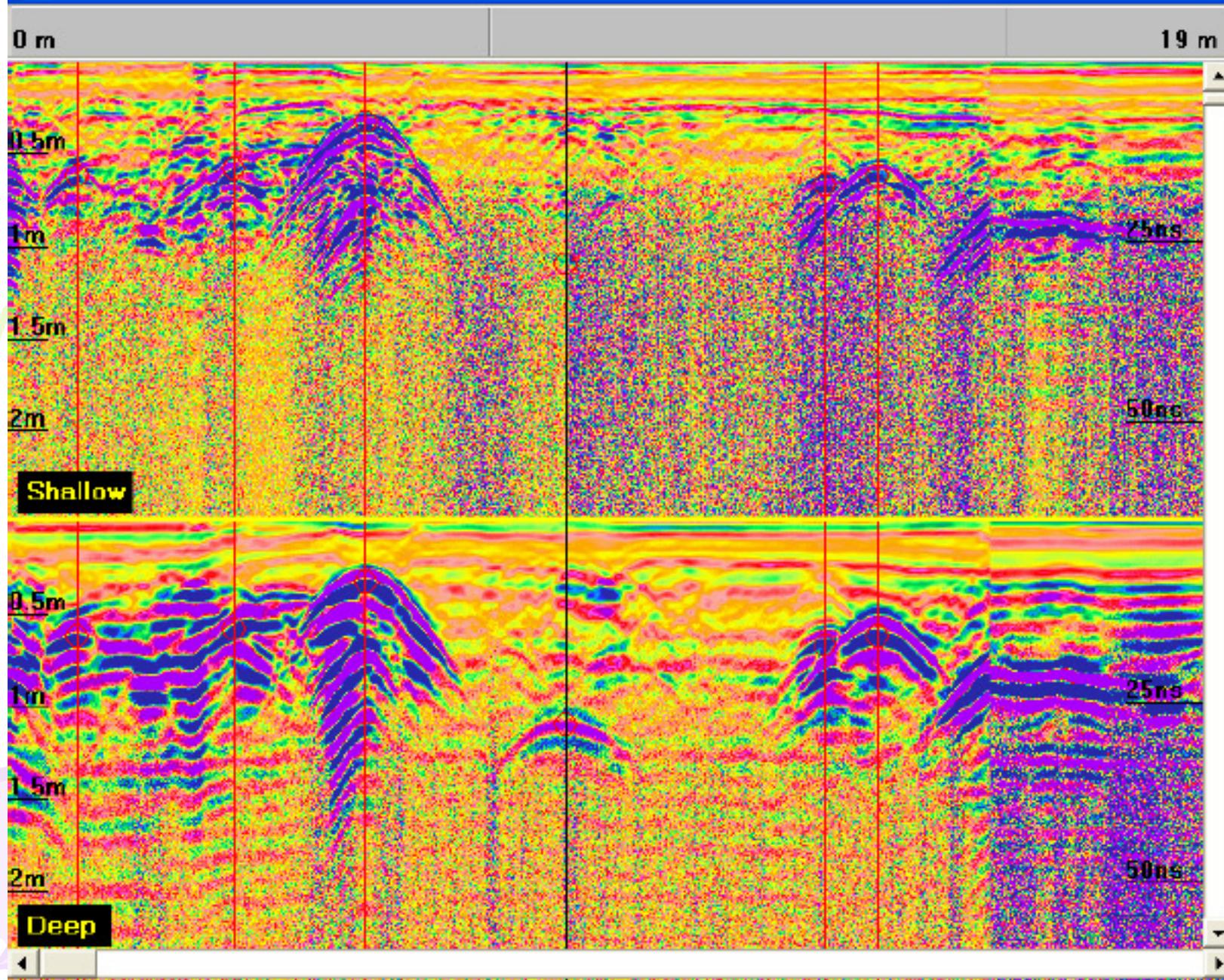


# TECHNOLOGY INTRODUCTION

## On-site location/ detection







- RADAR
- BATT
- SPEED
- SWEEP

RAINBOW1 x1  
 Contrast 3.5

Up Mark  
 Down Unmark

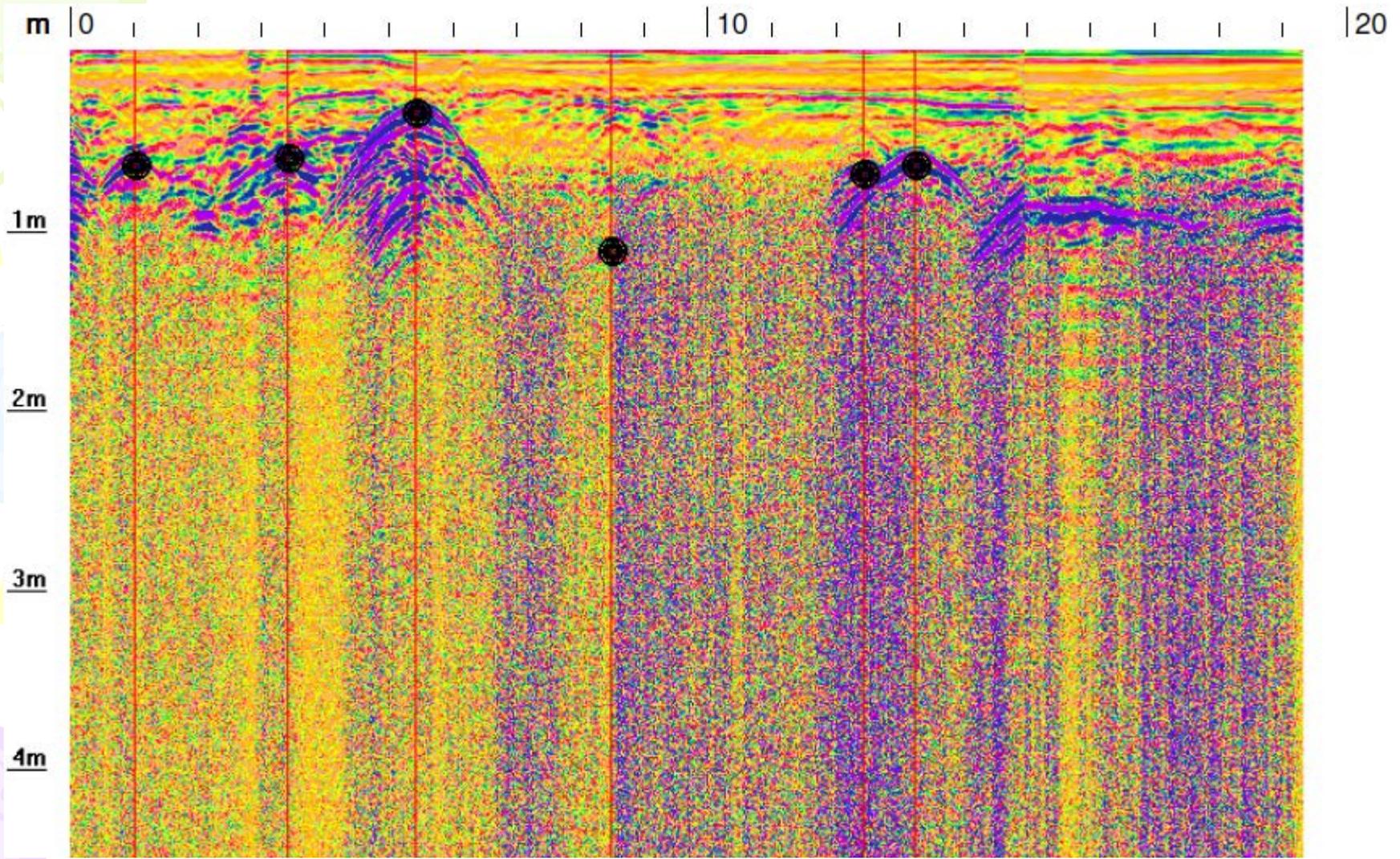


Dist 8.49 m  
 Depth 1.03 m

Sewer pipe

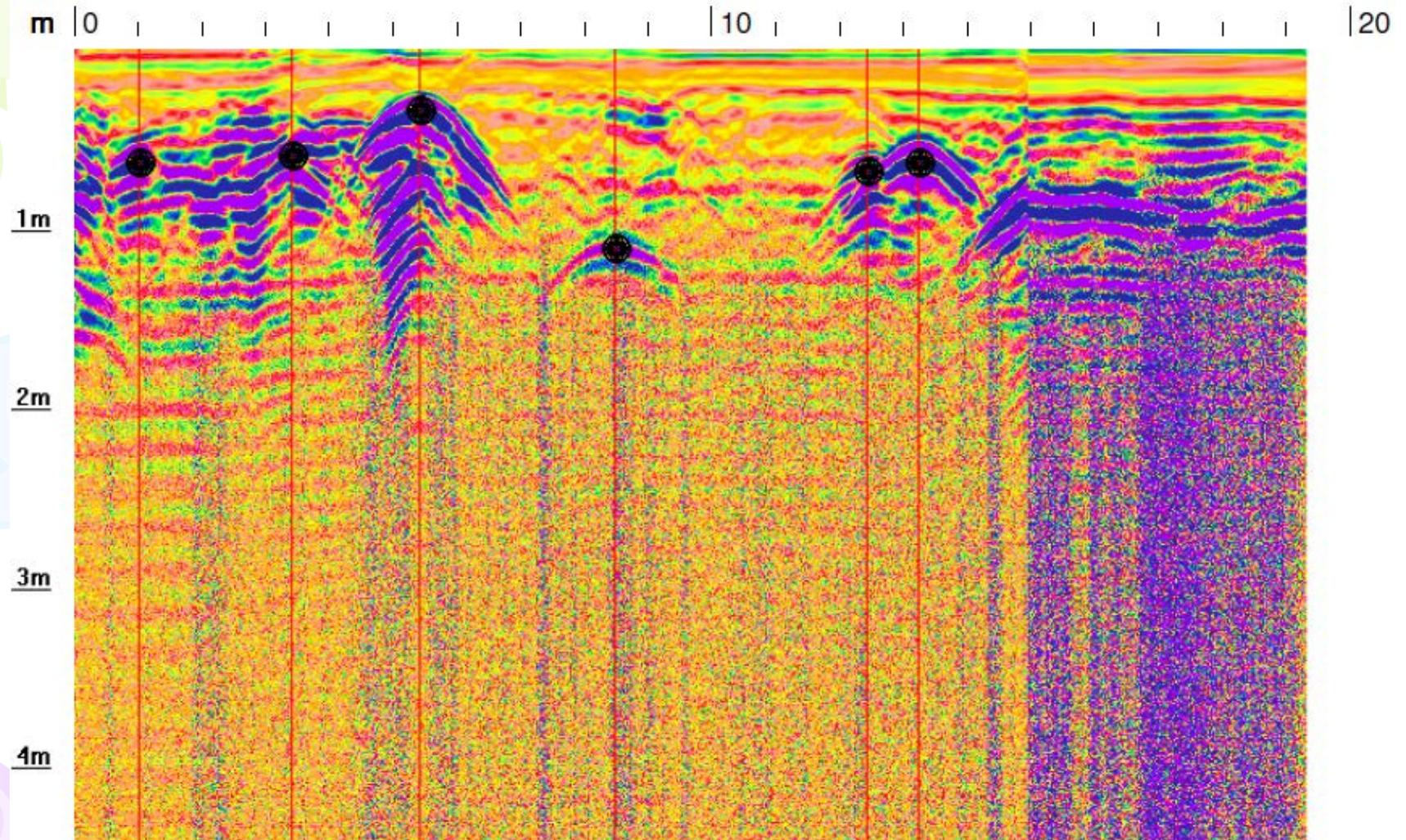
Shallow Deep

# Important of frequency used vs information collected



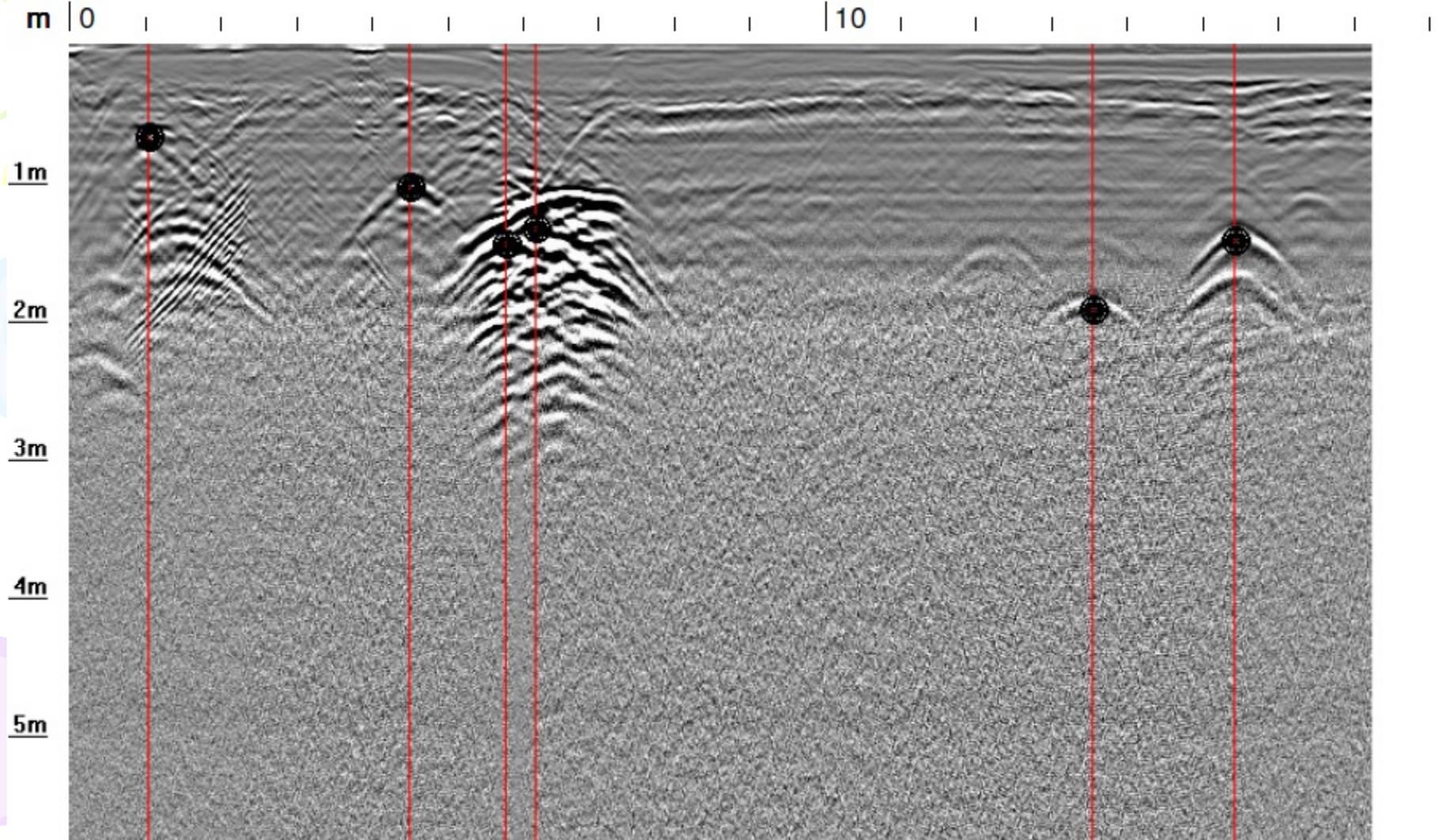
High frequency – high resolution – shallow depth

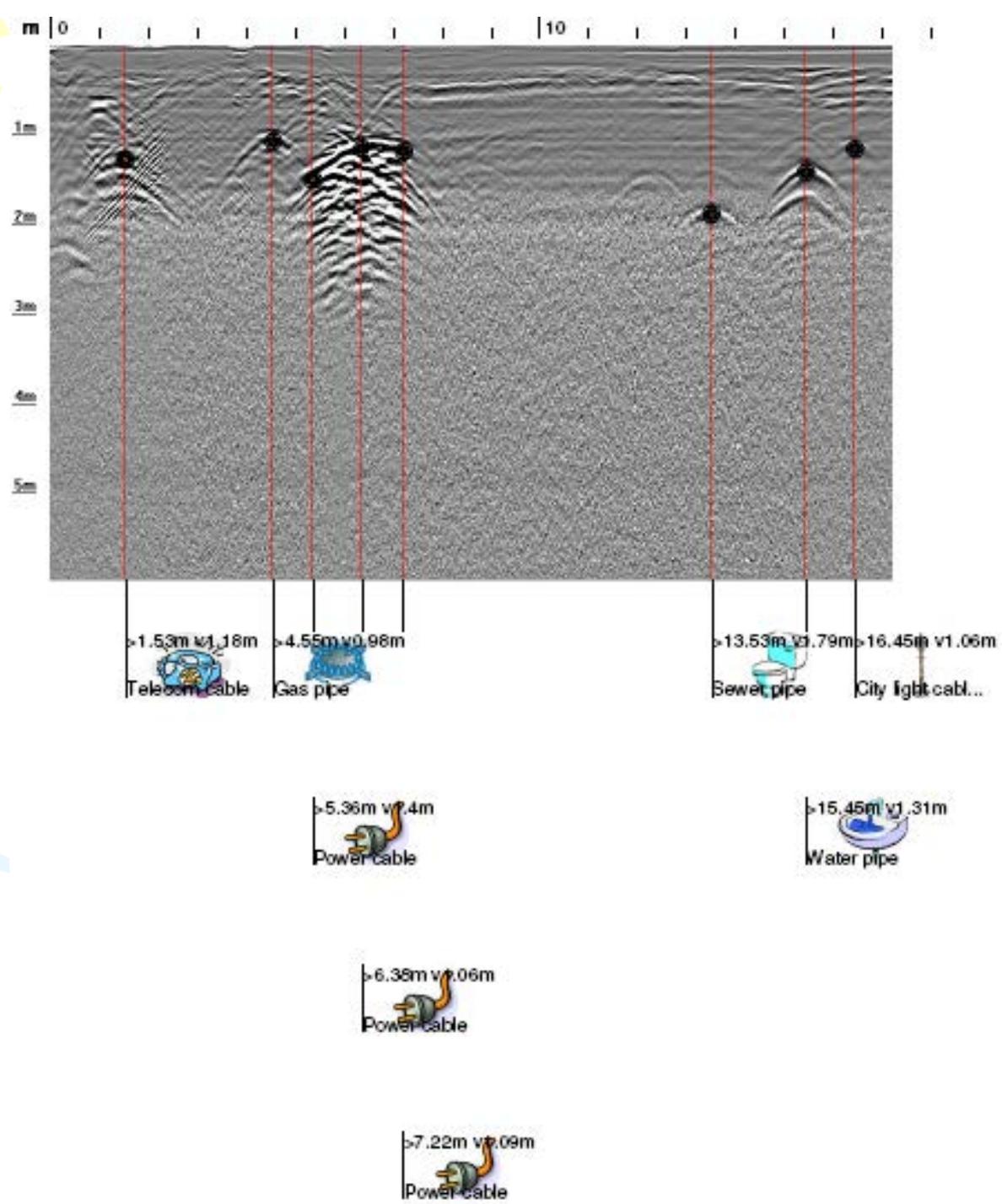
# Important of frequency used vs information collected



Low frequency – low resolution – deeper depth

Radargram MUST be submitted as part of deliverable report !





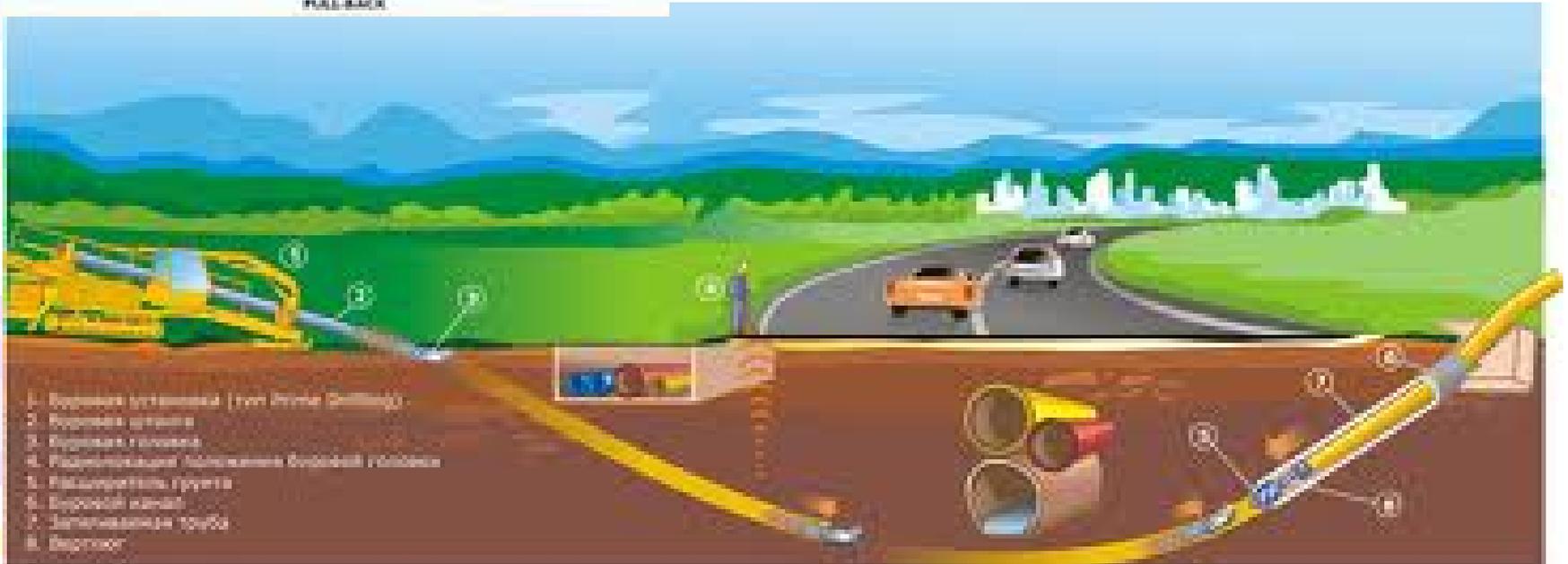
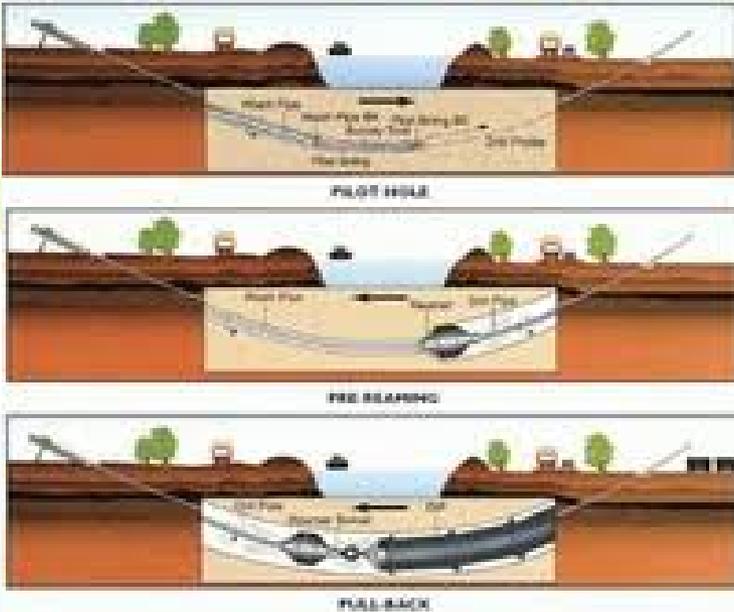


## **Limitation of Electro-magnetic based technology:**

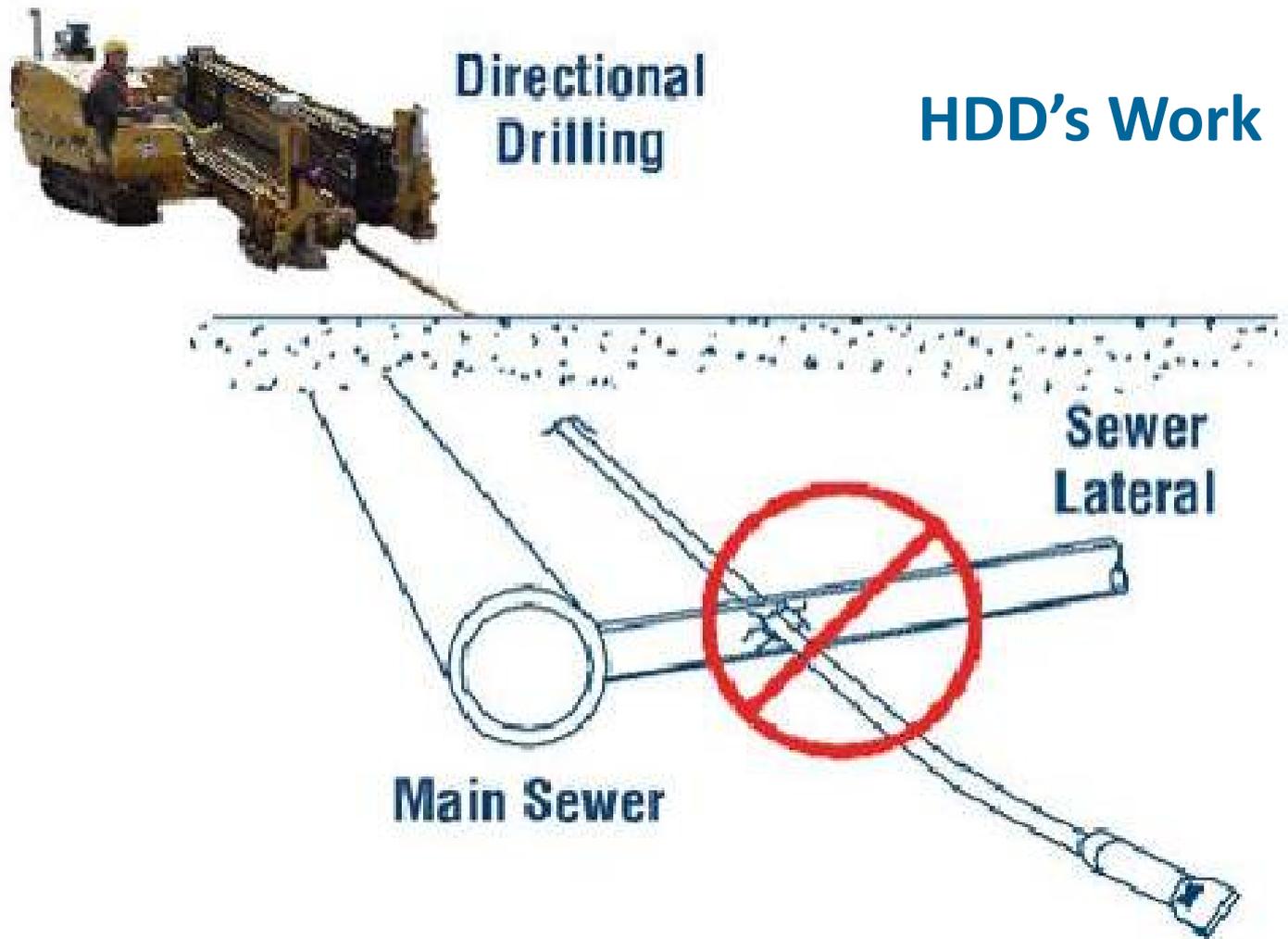
- magnetic field interference to or from adjacent utility (EML)
- interference by HV cable (EML)
- depth limitation (GPR & EML)

**Above are the key problems which cause difficulty or almost impossible to locating most of the HDD installed utility!!**

# Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)



# How often does this happen?





223.8 FT



**GAS LINE IN SEWER BY HDD  
INSTALLATION**