

Interpretation in conductive environments

Environments having background resistivities below 30 ohm-m cause all airborne EM systems to yield very large responses from the conductive ground. This usually prohibits the recognition of bedrock conductors. The processing of DIGHEM^{II} data, however, produces four channels which contribute significantly to the recognition of bedrock conductors. These are the inphase and quadrature difference channels (number 33 and 34), and the resistivity and depth channels (40 and 41). The EM difference channels eliminate up to 99% of the response of conductive ground, leaving responses from bedrock conductors, cultural features (e.g., telephone lines, fences, etc.) and edge effects. An edge effect arises when the conductivity of the ground suddenly changes, and this is a source of geologic noise. While edge effects yield anomalies on the EM difference channels, they do not produce resistivity anomalies. Consequently, the resistivity channel aids in eliminating anomalies due to edge effects. On the other hand, resistivity anomalies will coincide with the most highly conductive sections of conductive ground, and this is another source of geologic noise. The recognition of a bedrock conductor in a highly conductive environment therefore is