Date: Thursday, February 6, 2014
From: Bob Thomes Exede Manager
McLeod Cooperative Power Association
To: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Staff
Subject: Expression of Interest-Rural Trials
Docket NO. 10-90

McLeod Cooperative Power Association is a member owned electric utility serving 6,800 residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial customers in McLeod, Renville, Sibley and Carver counties in central Minnesota. We also provide Electric Heating systems, Marathon Water heaters, exede High Speed Internet via satellite, Emergency Medical systems and Home Security Systems. In the past we have provided DIRECTV services to our members for nearly twenty years before opting out of the business last year. We at McLeod are committed to finding reliable services for our members. Broadband is one service our members would like to have available for an affordable price and reliable service in the rural areas

McLeod Cooperative Power Association at this time does not have all the required license, but if funding were to be provided we would meet the requirements set forth by the FCC.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association is proposing to serve their entire territory with broadband services. We cover McLeod, Sibley, Renville and Carver Counties in central Minnesota. This would provide 7,000 member consumers and 1,500 square miles of broadband services. Our population density average 3.5 homes per mile.

Business that we have in our rural areas would two ethanol plants, one huge grain transportation facility and one huge food service Industry manufacturer as well as one fuel pipeline system on our power system as of today.
At McLeod Cooperative Power Association we are now offering exede high speed internet. Our offerings are 12 Mbps, speed for download with three different data plans. 10GB/per month at $49.99, 15GB/per month at $79.99 and 25GB/ per month at $129.99. We are committed to finding different ways to getting better broadband service available for our members. McLeod has also done a business study on deploying a WiMAX system for our members would cost around 3 million dollars to build out in two phases.

There are two providers that work in our western and southern areas that offer services like tower to tower systems that offer 3Mbps down and 1Mbps up. This is insufficient for today’s needs, let alone for future applications. We would like to find a service to fit all of our members needs for affordable and reliable broadband services.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association is just starting to explore more systems to offer better more reliable and affordable broadband services for our members.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association has mapped out a two phase plan for the WiMAX project that would supply broadband services to all 7,000 members. The project would build out in two phases about 3,500 members per phase.

- Total Utility Investment $2 million
- One Time Capital Investment Needed $2 million
- Total Project Cost $4 million