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March 7, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Subject: WC Docket No. 10-90
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Arvig Enterprises, Inc. dba Arvig hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission’s rural broadband experiments to deliver robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding.

The items requested are as outlined below.

Company Background

Arvig, an independently owned telecommunications provider serving both rural and metro areas in Minnesota, is a multi-service corporation providing communications products and services to more than 120,000 customers throughout a service area that covers over 9,000 square miles. Arvig serves 28 counties and has over 6,000 fiber miles, more than 2,500 route miles and 100 plus cell towers within the state. Having grown from the small, family-owned East Ottertail Telephone Company to one of the largest telecommunications providers in the nation, Arvig is now an industry leader in rural telecommunications services. Core product offerings include local telephone service, long distance, cable television, high-speed Internet, wireless, cellular, business phone systems, security systems and yellow page advertisement.

Geographic Territory

Arvig is proposing to serve the identified areas with DSL technology. There is a significant need for broadband in the rural areas listed below; many of which are residential homes who are unserved because of significant costs to build out a network.

State	County	Township	Census Tract
MN	Stearns	Melrose	27145010600

Anchor Institutions

There are no unserved Anchor Institutions in this proposal.

Proposed Technology Platform

Arvig will plow fiber to and set one node, we will use existing copper pair to provide these customers high-speed broadband services via VDSL technology, capable of speeds up to



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50Mbps. Enhanced services including, video, voice, VoIP, Internet, VPN, WAN and other value added services will be offered. Packages will start at 10Mbps download and 1.5Mbps upload. All services will be offered at competitive market rates.

State and/or Local or Tribal Government Participation in and/or Support for Project

Yes, county governments will write a letter of support if this project is funded.

Existing Providers

Broadband is unavailable to the 20 premises in the areas listed above. All of these homes are without a terrestrial wired provided service (what is available is only through air).

Project Timeline

Arvig is ready as soon as funding is acquired.

Scalability

The proposed network is scalable and can be increased to meet market demand. According to Niek Jan van Damme, a member of the Deutsche Telekom board best describes the future for this type network, "Thanks to advances to VDSL using techniques such as vectoring, copper wire continues to be viable and a cost effective alternative to fiber for expanding the reach of broadband networks. While copper may not be able to achieve the same capacity as fiber, 100 Mbps download speeds of vectored VDSL are more than enough to satisfy the needs of 90% of broadband users and can be deployed without the expense of laying new fiber."

Total Investment

Total Arvig Investment	\$15,775
One-Time Capital Infrastructure Investment Needed	\$36,950
<i>Total Project Cost</i>	<i>\$52,725</i>

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Birkholz
Director of Southern Markets
Arvig