



150 Second Street SW
Perham, MN 56573

218.346.5500

arvig.com

March 11, 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 within Todd County with FTTH technology. There is a need for broadband in the extremely rural areas listed below; many of which are residential homes who are underserved because of significant costs to build out an all fiber network. Much of the county is served by the FCC broadband standards, but there are pocket areas that are not. An extremely small percentage is currently served by fiber. As the proposal progresses we could remove the build to the cities of Browerville, Long Prairie and Staples, which can currently receive 50 Mbps.

State	County	Township	Census Tract
MN	Todd	Various	27153790800
MN	Todd	Various	27153790700
MN	Todd	Various	27153790600
MN	Todd	Various	27153790500
MN	Todd	Various	27153790400
MN	Todd	Various	27153790300
MN	Todd	Various	27153790200
MN	Todd	Various	27153790100



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Anchor Institutions

We would serve, with fiber, every Anchor Institutions covered by this proposal. Including but not limited to libraries, schools and government agencies.

Proposed Technology Platform

Arvig plans to construct a FTTH network in the entire county of Todd. This network would be capable of providing speeds to 1 Gigabit. The network will be capable of providing secure enhanced services including voice, VoIP, Internet, VPN, WAN and other high capacity services. Residents and business will enjoy multiple service access speed options that could start at 10Mbps download /6Mbps upload, the state of Minnesota’s stated goal. All services will be offered at competitive market rates.

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

It is Arvig’s belief, after earlier talks with Todd County, that they would be interested in helping to fund this project. That dollar amount would be determined as this project takes shape.

Existing Providers

Broadband is unavailable to a portion of 10,477 premises in the county. That portion without broadband services are without a terrestrial wired provided service. What is available to them is through the air. The served part of the county, throughout some of the rural area, is served by various wire line phone companies. The plan and cost is based on existing cooperative companies will not be overbuilt. The cities of Staples and Long Prairie have a cable TV and an additional phone provider.

Project Timeline

Arvig is ready as soon as funding is acquired. This build and turn up would take 24 months to complete.

Scalability

The proposed network is scalable and can be increased to meet market demand. We currently could scale to 1 Gbps with 10 Gbps available as needed.

Total Investment

	Including Long Prairie, Staples	Without Long Prairie, Staples
Total Arvig (Todd County) Investment	\$13,008,925	\$11,197,500
One-Time Capital Infrastructure Investment Needed	\$52,035,698	\$44,789,948
<i>Total Project Cost</i>	<i>\$65,044,623</i>	<i>\$55,987,448</i>

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Birkholz
Director of Southern Markets
Arvig