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March 11, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
445 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Redwood 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 city of Redwood Falls, which can currently receive 50 Mbps.

State	County	Township	Census Tract
MN	Redwood	Various	27127750500
MN	Redwood	Various	27127750400
MN	Redwood	Various	27127750100
MN	Redwood	Various	27127750600

**Anchor Institutions**

Anchor Institutions would include but are not necessarily limited to the Redwood County Government Center, Redwood County Courthouse, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility, Human Services Office, Public Health Office, Redwood County Sheriff's Department, Redwood County Highway



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Department, Cedar Mountain Elementary, Cedar Mountain Secondary, Eci'Nompa Woonspe, Milroy Elementary, Milroy Jr. High, Red Rock Central Elementary, Red Rock Central Secondary, Redwood Falls Area Schools, Reede Gray Elementary, Redwood Valley Middle School, Redwood Valley Sr. High, St. John's Lutheran School, Vesta Elementary, Vesta Secondary, Wabasso Elementary, Wabasso Secondary, Westbrook-Walnut Grove School, Redwood Area Hospital, Affiliated Community Med Center (ACMC) – Redwood Falls, Lamberton Clinic-Mayo Health System, Wabasso Public Library, Redwood Falls City Library, Morgan Public Library, and the Lamberton Public Library.

**Proposed Technology Platform**

Arvig plans to construct a FTTH network in the entire county of Redwood. 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 Redwood County, that they would be interested in helping to fund this project. That specific dollar amount would be determined as this project takes shape.

**Existing Providers**

Broadband is unavailable to a portion of 7,018 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, are served by various wire line phone companies. The City of Redwood Falls has 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 gig with 10 gig available as needed.

**Total Investment**

	Including Redwood Falls	Without Redwood Falls
Total Arvig (Redwood County) Investment	\$11,959,745	\$10,051,700
One-Time Capital Infrastructure Investment Needed	\$47,838,979	\$40,206,819
<i>Total Project Cost</i>	<i>\$59,798,724</i>	<i>\$50,258,519</i>

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Birkholz  
Director of Southern Markets  
Arvig