
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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A Job Well Done

To the Editor,

Dick Peck, Beartooth Electric Cooperative's interim manager, left town on April 28 for his home in Alaska. He will be sorely missed.

For many in the area, Dick requires no introduction. In the three years he managed the cooperative, he charmed virtually everyone he met. But more than anything, he kept Beartooth afloat after its wholesale power provider, Southern Montana Electric went bankrupt in 2011 leaving the co-op with a huge potential debt.

The co-op was in serious trouble when Dick arrived in the spring of 2012. Employee morale was terrible. Maintenance was underfunded, and power reliability was poor for some areas the co-op served. Dick's predecessor and the co-op's engineering manager had quit followed shortly by the co-op's finance and accounting manager. Five of the seven members of the co-op's board of trustees had only been in office for a few months, the other two for only a couple of years.

On the eve of Dick's departure, Beartooth Electric was a very different place. Its morale was high, its finances strong, and its reliability excellent. Its relationship with Southern was fast becoming a bad memory. And the future was bright. The agreement Dick engineered before leaving put the co-op in good hands. Beartooth is now managed by Lower Valley Energy, an organization renowned for its excellent management, outstanding service, and very low rates. Best of all, a rate decrease is in the future once Beartooth leaves Southern.

Well done Dick Peck. Enjoy your retirement.

Dick Nolan
Region Four Trustee
Beartooth Electric Cooperative