



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2015

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Beartooth Electric asks for member input

Red Lodge, MT – Gearing up to meet goals to bring electric rates down, Beartooth Electric is reaching out to its members for input. Member meetings have been scheduled for the week of March 30 throughout the co-op’s service area. Current manager Dick Peck will deliver his final report. Beartooth’s new manager will outline plans to reduce costs, continue to improve service, and begin reducing rates for members.

“We need our members to participate,” said Roxie Melton of Roberts, president of the Beartooth Board of Trustees.

The board’s due diligence chair will outline results of analyses to support rate reductions. Members will hear about advice from experts on approaches to securing long-term power after an exit from Southern Montana Electric, the co-op’s current power supplier. The report follows two years of work on future power supply options.

A cost of services study that indicates strategies for responsible rate reductions is now under review. The board’s finance committee has examined planned changes to the current budget for 2015.

“The examination shows potential cost reductions both for our power supply after Southern and in business operations,” said Arleen Boyd, due diligence chair on the Beartooth board of trustees. “Members will benefit,” she stated.

As of April 1, the manager of Beartooth Electric Cooperative will be Jim Webb, the CEO of Lower Valley Energy, a gas and electric distribution co-op based in Afton, Wyoming. Co-op members will learn more about management changes at the upcoming meetings.

Member meetings are set for March 30 at the Roberts Firehall; March 31 at the Fishtail Community Center; April 1 at the Rec Center in Clark, Wyoming; and April 2 at the Columbus City Hall. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. The next regular board of trustees meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 31st at the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation. For more information call 406-446-2310 or visit www.beartoothelectric.com.

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