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September 19, 2014

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Jensen to Keynote Annual Member Meeting Saturday
Topic: A Future for Beartooth Electric Co-op

This year's annual meeting of the membership of Beartooth Electric Cooperative promises to be interesting. The day's topics will cover no less than the future of the co-op that supplies electrical power to 4,300 members in southern Montana and northern Wyoming.

Rod Jensen, who has served 22 years on the Board of Directors for Lower Valley Energy, will be the keynote speaker. He will discuss possible options for the direction of the co-op as Beartooth seeks to put the bankruptcy debacle of its generation and transmission cooperative, Southern Montana Electric (Southern), in the rearview mirror. The court-approved reorganization of Southern took effect early in the summer of 2014 after almost three years of litigation and mediation.

As the main speaker, Jensen will touch on the challenges facing small cooperatives, especially those with a significant seasonal customer segment. Lower Valley Energy is a distribution cooperative with offices in Afton and Jackson, Wyoming, which serves customers in northwestern Wyoming and eastern Idaho. In addition to his history with the energy cooperative, Jensen has also built a long career of business and civic service. He is a former Afton, Wyoming, Town Council member, current president of the Bank of Star Valley and serves on the University of Wyoming Advisory Board.

Jensen shares a history with Richard Peck, the Beartooth interim manager whose contract ends this year. Peck formerly served as the manager for Lower Valley Energy. Board members from both Beartooth and Lower Valley met earlier this month regarding a potential partnership.

The 76th annual meeting of the Beartooth Electric Cooperative will be held Saturday, September 27, 2014 at the Roberts High School gymnasium in Roberts, Montana. All members are urged to attend. Elections will be finalized for three seats on the co-op's Board of Trustees.

A live auction will be held for two of the cooperatives retired pickups. Door prizes have been donated by numerous businesses and individuals. Current information about the co-op can be found at www.beartoothelectric.com or by calling 406-446-2310.

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