



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2012

Beartooth Electric to appoint trustees, seek interim manager

Following last week's resignation of the Beartooth Electric Cooperative (BEC) General Manager, the BEC Board of Trustees approved hiring an interim manager. In a special meeting February 3, the Board agreed to launch the selection process by February 13.

The Board confirmed the schedule for appointing trustees to replace District 4 and District 6 Trustees who resigned after a meeting was scheduled in response to a recall petition presented by members. Interviews with applicants for the trustee positions are set for February 16. The new trustees will be seated at the February 29 board meeting.

The board also outlined a cost effective method to provide training for the newly appointed trustees while developing a strategic plan for going forward in light of the financial uncertainty created by the Southern Montana Electric (Southern) bankruptcy. Southern's creditors already are presenting BEC with demands for payment of financial obligations that Southern has failed to meet. The Board's special meeting included a closed session to address legal strategy for payment of debt which BEC secured for Southern and to examine legal issues involving past personnel actions.

"While all of the financial implications of our responsibility for Southern's debt will not be clear for some time yet, we are following sound legal advice regarding our current obligations and working to meet those demands within the constraints of our current revenue," said Dan Dutton, District 1 Trustee and BEC Finance Committee Chair.

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