



**For Immediate Release
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BEC Board of Trustees names Kevin P. Owens new BEC General Manager

Red Lodge, MT—Beartooth Electric Cooperative’s (BEC) Board of Trustees announces that, after a nationwide search, Kevin P. Owens has been selected to serve as general manager assuming responsibilities August 1, 2017. He will replace James R. Webb, BEC General Manager and President/CEO of Lower Valley Energy (LVE), Afton, WY—BEC’s management services organization since 2015.



Kevin P. Owens

The announcement follows a six-month-long search process that began after decisions at both LVE and BEC to forego merger discussions. The search process was facilitated by search firm Mycoff, Fry and Prouse (MFP).

Beartooth Electric Board President David Peterson says, “The board’s decision is the culmination of a comprehensive search and interview process to find the best leader to benefit members, our talented staff and the overall interests of the cooperative. Owens has 40 years’ experience in the electric power industry with broad management, business and technical expertise within the public and private electric utility sector. We welcome him to Beartooth Electric.”

Owens holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Puget Sound and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Gonzaga University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Washington and Oregon.

“The BEC Board has found in Kevin, a leader who will be committed to the membership and their needs; to the staff and their challenges and to the BEC board,” said departing General Manager, James R. Webb. “I firmly believe the table is set for success for Kevin. I have seen firsthand the immense groundwork that has taken place at your electric cooperative, both from an operations and governance perspective. I have watched the effort the board has put into finding just the right person to become the next general manager. I have the fullest confidence in the foundation of this cooperative—the future is very bright at Beartooth Electric.”

Owens is very familiar with Red Lodge area and has a family cabin in the Beartooth service territory with BEC membership since 1965. “I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to serve the Beartooth Electric members and excited to work with the incredible board and staff on the challenges and opportunities in front of us,” said Owens. “My family has deep roots in the area, and it is an honor to be able to help shape the future of the cooperative.”

Kevin’s formal member introduction is scheduled during BEC’s 79th Annual Member Meeting, September 23, 2017, at the ANIPRO Event Center, 2878, MT-78, Absarokee, MT.

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