**TAKING CHARGE OF CHANGE**—
BEC Hosts Cost of Service and Rate Design Seminar

By General Manager, Kevin P. Owens, PE

Beartooth Electric’s Board of Trustees, staff, and a few members attended a Cost of Service and Rate Design Seminar on November 9 in Red Lodge. Gail Tabone with EES Consulting, Bellevue, Washington led the seminar and discussion.

Beartooth Electric finds itself in a unique position, as there is not currently an immediate need to increase revenue requirements through increased rates. Consequently, it is an opportune time to look at how costs are captured for each of our member rate classifications; i.e., residential, commercial, irrigation, etc. More importantly, working with EES we will look at rate design within each of those classifications to ensure fairness and equity among the members rate class.

The Board and engaged Committee members will take into consideration changes in the utility industry, the changing dynamics of customer needs and expectations, the influx of distributed renewable generation and how the Cooperative is actually taking, “Charge of Change.”

The Cooperative’s obsolete metering system was very limited in its capabilities. The digital meter upgrade project is well underway and will go a long way to provide more energy information to our members and different rate design options, improve service response times and open new communication channels for us that just weren’t an option in the past.

Ms. Tabone’s knowledge and experience in the industry will be a huge benefit to the Cooperative and its members over the next year. Her initial workshop provided a great foundation to work from; i.e., how Cost of Service studies are performed, how rates are set within a member classification and best practice industry trends, etc. There will be many more meetings in the future for members to participate and attend. Look for notices in our publications and website calendar.

**GAIL TABONE, SENIOR ASSOCIATE, ESS CONSULTING LEADS BEC’S COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN SEMINAR ON OCTOBER 9, 2018.**
ATTENTION ALL BEC SERVICE AREA SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS—

More than 1,500 students from all across America take part in the Youth Tour experience each year, and so can you! This unique trip will give you the opportunity to watch history come alive as you explore museums, memorials and monuments. You will make lifetime friends and be a part of a more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life—including U.S. Senators and CEOs.

2019 YOUTH TOUR DATES:
Orientation in Great Falls June 15-21: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Visit monuments and museums, tour the Capitol and meet with the Montana representative and senators.

YOUTH TOUR CONTEST RULES:
1. The student must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2019.
2. Student cannot be a prior winner of the Youth Tour.
3. The student’s parent or guardian must be a member of the co-op and receiving electric service at their residence from BEC.
4. The student must write an essay on the following topic:

What would your day be like without electricity?

5. Essays must be typed in a 12 point font with one inch margins, double-spaced and not longer than 500 words.

ESSAY DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 30
Please submit your essay to BEC by November 30, 2018. Email to krobbins@beartoothelectric.com or mail to:
Kaaren Robbins
Beartooth Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 1110
Red Lodge, MT 59008

MORE YOUTH TOUR INFORMATION:
America’s Electric Cooperatives https://www.electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs/

MECA MEMORIAL $500 SCHOLARSHIP
DEADLINE: JANUARY 26, 2019

The $500 Montana Electric Cooperative’s Association (MECA) Memorial Scholarship application period is open.

To be eligible, the student or their parents or guardians must be active members of Beartooth Electric.

Judging criteria is weighted as follows:
40% Personal statement
20% Academic strength (GPA and national testing scores)
20% Activities in school and awards and honors
20% Employment, volunteerism and community service

Applications are available from your high school counselor, the BEC office or on our website at www.beartoothelectric.com.

QUESTIONS?
Please call the BEC office at 406-446-2310.

NOTICE: The NEW 2019 Beartooth Electric $1,000 Scholarship application period opens November 1. You could receive one of our 11 scholarships offered. Details online at www.beartoothelectric.com.
DECK THE HALLS WITH ENERGY EFFICIENT LED LIGHTING

The light-emitting diode (LED) is one of today’s most energy-efficient and rapidly-developing lighting technologies. Quality LED light bulbs last longer, are more durable, and offer comparable or better light quality than other types of lighting.

Energy Savings
LED is a highly energy efficient lighting technology, and has the potential to fundamentally change the future of lighting in the United States. Residential LEDs—especially ENERGY STAR rated products—use at least 75% less energy, and last 25 times longer, than incandescent lighting.

Widespread use of LED lighting has the greatest potential impact on energy savings in the United States. By 2027, widespread use of LEDs could save about 348 billion kWh (compared to no LED use) of electricity: This is the equivalent annual electrical output of 44 large electric power plants (1000 megawatts each), and a total savings of more than $30 billion at today’s electricity prices.

LED Holiday Lights
LEDs consume far less electricity than incandescent bulbs, and decorative LED light strings such as Christmas tree lights are no different. Not only do LED holiday lights consume less electricity, they also have the following advantages:

Safer: LEDs are much cooler than incandescent lights, reducing the risk of combustion or burnt fingers.

Sturdier: LEDs are made with epoxy lenses, not glass, and are much more resistant to breakage.

Longer lasting: The same LED string could still be in use 40 holiday seasons from now.

Easier to install: Up to 25 strings of LEDs can be connected end-to-end without overloading a wall socket.

Estimated cost of electricity to light a six-foot tree for 12 hours a day for 40 days—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Light</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incandescent C-9 lights</td>
<td>$7.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LED C-9 lights</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incandescent Mini-lights</td>
<td>$2.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>LED Mini-lights</td>
<td>$0.61</td>
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</table>

Estimated cost* of buying and operating lights for 10 holiday seasons—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Light</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incandescent C-9 lights</td>
<td>$91.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>LED C-9 lights</td>
<td>$13.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incandescent Mini-lights</td>
<td>$41.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LED Mini-lights</td>
<td>$24.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Assumes 50 C-9 bulbs and 200 mini-lights per tree, with electricity at BEC’s $0.088768 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Prices of lights based on quoted prices for low volume purchases from major home improvement retailers. All costs have been discounted at an annual rate of 5.6%. Life span assumed to be three seasons (1,500 hours) for non-LED lights.

A GIFT FOR YOU
10% OFF ANY REGULAR PRICE SINGLE LED HOLIDAY LIGHT STRING

Columbus Ace Hardware
537 Clough Ave S
Columbus, MT 59019
406-322-8551

LIMIT FOUR (4) LED LIGHT STRINGS Offer expires November 22, 2018

A GIFT FOR YOU
10% OFF ANY ONE REGULAR PRICE SINGLE LED HOLIDAY LIGHT STRING

Red Lodge True Value
1 Oakes Ave S
Red Lodge, MT 59068
406-446-1847

Offer expires November 22, 2018
2018 ELECTION RESULTS
BOARD OFFICER SELECTION

Kaaren Robbins, BEC Member Communication & Services
Awarded both 1st & 2nd Place SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS CATEGORY
Montana Electric Cooperatives’ Association (MECA) Annual Communication Awards.

NOTICE OF BOARD VACANCY
District 7 Trustee—Columbus, Rapelje, Reed Point

Applicants are sought to replace the District 7 representative on the Board of Trustees for Beartooth Electric Cooperative.

Eligible individuals must be at least 18 years old and an active Beartooth member-owner with primary residence in District 7 described as all areas north of the Yellowstone River including all of the Rapelje, Reed Point and Columbus including the Countryman Creek, Huntley Butte Creek, Hump Creek and West Bridger Creek drainages that exist south of the Yellowstone River (see map below).

Interested member-owners are invited to submit a letter of interest and a statement of qualifications to bec@beartoothelectric.com or mail to Beartooth Electric Cooperative, PO Box 1110, Red Lodge, MT 59068.

Interviews will be conducted with selected candidates. The successful candidate will be appointed by the board.

2018 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING
TAKING CHARGE OF CHANGE—
The Beartooth Electric Cooperative Annual Member Meeting was held September 29, 2018 at the ANIPRO Event Center in Absarokee, Montana.

Election Results
Two trustee districts were up for election this year. Both incumbent candidates ran unopposed.
• District 4—Red Lodge area Richard Nolan—489 votes
• District 6—Nye, Stillwater River area Bill Pascoe—493 votes

The proposed bylaw changes were passed. The proposed change to Article III. Meetings of Members, Section 1. Annual Meeting, was approved by a vote of 508 in favor and 16 opposed.

Why the change?
• ARTICLE III—MEETINGS OF MEMBERS currently requires a September annual meeting.
• In contrast to previous Annual Reports, this year’s Annual Report presents year-end audited financials for 2016 and 2017.
• BEC planning, budgeting, and other reporting is based on the calendar year.
• With the proposed change, BEC can present a timely audited financial report based on data for the previous calendar year as well as up-to-date planning and forecasting information.

Congratulations!
Kaaren Robbins, BEC Member Communication & Services

BEC HOLIDAY CALENDAR
We will be closed on the following dates:
Veteran’s Day Monday, November 12
Thanksgiving Thursday, November 22
After Thanksgiving Friday, November 23
Christmas Day Tuesday, December 25
New Year’s Day Tuesday, January 1

CONNECT WITH US—
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FACEBOOK