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June 3, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Brian Dekiep, Montana Senior Energy Analyst

SUBJECT: Introduction and Discussion with Montana Electric Cooperatives

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Mark Hayden, General Manager, Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC)
Rex Griffin, Ravalli Electric Cooperative (REC), Director

Summary: Council members and staff will hear from a General Manager and a Director from two of Montana's electric cooperations on a variety of topics. Some of these topics will include: service territory load growth, energy and capacity, wildfires, transmission, fish and wildlife and the 9th power plan.

Ravalli Electric Cooperative is located in the Bitterroot valley south of Missoula, while Missoula Electric Cooperative is located in Missoula County including the Seely Lake Valley. MEC does not serve the city of Missoula. Both cooperatives are BPA preference customers and receive Tier 1 service. (See map below for service areas)

The last time we were in Montana, we heard from Mark Lambrecht then the Governmental Affairs Director and now the recently appointed General Manager at the Montana Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) as well as Pete Simonich a Director from MEC.

More info: **Montana Electric Cooperatives:**

Ravalli Electric Cooperative:

<https://www.ravallielectric.com/about-us/board-of-directors/annual-report/>

<https://www.ravallielectric.com/wp-content/uploads/MayRavalliWeb-2.pdf>

<https://www.ravallielectric.com/wp-content/uploads/JuneRavalliWeb-3.pdf>

Missoula Electric Cooperative:

<https://missoulaelectric.com/news-events/news-highlights/>

Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MEC) was founded in 1936 and is a member-owned rural electric [cooperative](#) that serves electricity to members in Montana (six counties) and Idaho (one county). MEC strives to uphold a commitment to service excellence, while delivering safe, affordable and reliable electricity to its members. These key focuses are complemented by innovative energy solutions and a deep-rooted involvement in the communities we serve.

1. HISTORY

In early 1936, a group of local farmers and ranchers united to power their homes and farms. After countless meetings, applications, and approvals, the first power lines were energized in 1938. These lines served electricity to 125 members across a 75-mile service area and were the humble beginning of Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The member-owned electric utility has flourished over the past eight decades. What was once a small rural utility now powers over 13,000 residential and commercial members in seven counties and two states. All of this was achieved by a network of neighbors who banded together to achieve a common goal.

Though the Cooperative is consistently evolving, its mission and outlook remain the same. We are neighbors helping neighbors – and together, we provide safe, affordable and reliable energy to our member-owners.

2. MISSION STATEMENT

Our business is providing energy. Our mission is serving our members.

3. THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF OUR BUSINESS – “SERVICE”

Safety. We believe that only when we work safely can we be productive. The safety of our employees and the public is of utmost importance in all that we do.

Employees. We recognize that our employees are our greatest asset, and we are committed to building and maintaining superior customer satisfaction through the competent actions of a well-trained and dedicated workforce.

Reliability. We understand that our members deserve the highest level of reliability that is reasonably attainable.

Value. We are committed to delivering the highest quality products and services that our members want and need. Through continuous innovation and effective communications, we will continually strive to exceed our members' expectations and deliver service and information that adds value to our members' lives.

Integrity. We understand that our business dealings must be governed by the highest standards of conduct and ethics. Our integrity is demonstrated by doing business in an honest, responsible and innovative manner.

Community. We are guided by the 7 Cooperative Principles, and endeavor to meet the needs of our members and strengthen the local communities that we serve.

Efficiency. We recognize that we are owned by those we serve. We are dedicated to providing least-cost solutions to our members while operating in a fiscally responsible manner.

