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January 22, 2009—*For Immediate Release*

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**PSC Chair Reminds Montanans that Electric Cooperatives  
are Not Under Commission's Jurisdiction**

Public Service Commission (PSC) Chair Greg Jergeson wants to remind Montanans that the state's electric cooperatives are not under the jurisdiction of the Montana PSC. Recent reports of sharp increases in bills from the Beartooth Electric Cooperative Inc. prompted the announcement.

"I certainly understand the reactions of Beartooth customers," said Jergeson. "Significant power bill increases are undoubtedly difficult to accommodate in these tough financial times," he added. "However, Montana law limits PSC jurisdiction to electric Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs). Consequently, the Montana PSC has no authority to either approve or disapprove Beartooth Electric rates the way that the Wyoming Commission may," he concluded.

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