



**Media Contact:**

Bob McKeon 402-943-9143

Black Hills Media Line 866-243-9002

### **BLACK HILLS ENERGY PARTNERING WITH CITY OF WAYNE, NEB., TO BRING THE POWER OF TREES TO THE COMMUNITY ON ARBOR DAY**

WAYNE, Neb., April 23, 2009 – Employees of Black Hills Energy and the City of Wayne, Neb., are digging in together to foster the “foliage factor” to conserve energy, sustain the environment and improve the landscape, all through the “Power of Trees.”

As part of its Power of Trees program, Black Hills Corp. is partnering again this spring with local volunteer groups to plant trees in communities the company serves. This is the third year for the program. Last year, Black Hills Corp. donated and helped to plant 266 trees throughout the company’s service territories.

“Just plant a tree, it’s that simple,” said Mike Vovos, Black Hills Energy appliance repair technician and leader of the company’s Power of Trees team in Wayne. “Our desire with the Power of Trees program is to work with our community partners to improve the environment and help beautify communities we serve while spreading the message that everyone can help combat global warming.”

In Wayne, Black Hills Energy and City of Wayne employees will plant five trees on Friday (Arbor Day), 9 a.m., at Bressler Park, West Ninth and Lincoln streets, Wayne, as part of the city’s Arbor Day celebration. Bressler is the city’s largest park.

“The Power of Trees is more than a one-day event,” Vovos said. “Trees are an investment that reap a lifetime of reward. We hope this planting will be a catalyst in the community for additional tree-planting efforts.”

Wayne Mayor Lois Shelton said, “We welcome Black Hills Energy to our Arbor Day celebration, and thank them for the trees they are providing.”

Black Hills Energy employees and their community partners are planting trees in parks, on school grounds, in new public spaces and other areas where they will help offset the effect of greenhouse gasses. Trees help purify the air by absorbing pollutants. Trees also help stop erosion, lower cooling and heating costs by providing shade in summer and windbreaks in winter, improve neighborhoods by serving as sound barriers and create habitat for birds and other wildlife, even in urban settings.

As a part of its ongoing commitment to environmental responsibility and stewardship, Black Hills Corp.'s 2008 annual report was printed on Tri-Certified paper. Tri-Certified means the paper is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, Sustainable Forest Initiative and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Council. All company business cards and stationery products are printed on recycled paper that is Forest Stewardship Council and Green-e certified.

Black Hills Energy serves 197,400 natural gas customers in 110 eastern Nebraska communities. Black Hills Energy is part of Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) — a diversified energy company with a tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice — based in Rapid City, S.D. The company has other main offices in Golden, Colo., and Omaha, Neb. Black Hills Corp.'s regulated utilities serve 759,000 electric and natural gas utility customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The company's non-regulated businesses generate wholesale electricity, produce natural gas, oil and coal, and market energy. Black Hills employees partner to produce results that improve life with energy. More information is available at [www.blackhillscorp.com](http://www.blackhillscorp.com).

###