



---

## **News Release**

**Media Contact:**

Mutch Usera

605-484-1476

### **BLACK HILLS EMPLOYEES PARTNER WITH CITY OF NEWCASTLE FOR POWER OF TREES PROGRAM**

June 15, 2009 — NEWCASTLE, Wyo. — Employees from Black Hills Power and Black Hills Exploration & Production will partner with the Newcastle City Tree Board, local Garden Club and City Council volunteers at the Greenwood Cemetery to plant 16 trees starting at 10 a.m. on June 16.

The event is part of the company's second annual Power of Trees program. The plantings demonstrate the company's commitment to supporting a healthy environment while enhancing the landscape and promoting community partnerships.

"The Power of Trees is more than a one-day event. Trees are investments that reap a lifetime of reward," said Jim Bunch, Black Hills Power's customer service manager in Newcastle. "They help conserve energy, sustain the environment and improve the landscape."

"Our desire is to work with our community partners to improve the environment and help beautify communities where we operate while spreading the message that everyone can help improve the environment," said Dick Rich, Black Hills Exploration & Production's production superintendent in Newcastle. "We hope this planting will be a catalyst in the community for additional tree-planting efforts."

Approximately 40 to 50 employee volunteers will "dig in" together with local organizations in Black Hills communities this spring to plant 84 trees and educate the public about the benefits of trees as well as how to plant and maintain them. Black Hills Corp. has served communities in the Black Hills, including Newcastle, for more than 125 years.

Trees 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.

Black Hills Corp. and its subsidiaries have had a presence in the Black Hills region since 1883. Black Hills Power began serving Newcastle more than 65 years ago. Black Hills Exploration & Production has been operating as part of Black Hills Corp. in the Newcastle area since 1986.

### **Black Hills Power**

Black Hills Power is the legacy business of Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) and has been delivering energy for more than 125 years. The electric utility serves 69,000 customers in 20 communities in western South Dakota, northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana.

### **Black Hills Exploration & Production**

Black Hills Exploration & Production, a division of Black Hills Corp., operates oil and natural gas producing properties in Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming and has non-operated interests in properties producing in California, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming.

### **Black Hills Corporation**

Black Hills Corp. — a diversified energy company with a tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice — is based in Rapid City, S.D., with corporate offices in Golden, Colo., and Omaha, Neb. The company serves 759,000 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).