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BLACK HILLS ENERGY MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO NATURAL GAS SYSTEM IN SOUTHWEST WAYNE

WAYNE, Neb., Aug. 10, 2009 – Black Hills Energy will continue to make system upgrades Aug. 17-21, weather permitting, in the southwest part of Wayne to the natural gas system there. It is the final phase of a multi-year project to upgrade the natural gas system in the city so that it continues to provide safe and reliable service to the growing Wayne community for years to come.

The utility work will take place in an area bounded by Main Street to Oak and Wilcliff drives and Seventh Street to Grainland Road. It will consist of upgrading district regulator stations, surveying natural gas mains in the area, and possibly replacing some steel main and service lines with new plastic main and service lines that enable the system to better handle periods of high demand. Black Hills Energy and contractor vehicles will be in southwest Wayne neighborhoods, and company employees and contractors will need access to natural gas meters and therefore will be on the customer's property.

“We appreciate the patience and understanding of our customers while this work is being done and apologize in advance for any inconvenience this project may cause,” said Chip Wical, operations supervisor, Black Hills Energy. “We’ll work as quickly as possible to minimize any disruption.”

There is a possibility of some temporary service interruptions while the work is taking place, but this will affect a limited number of customers and they will be contacted. Black Hills Energy customer service associates are also available around the clock, seven days a week, at 888-890-5554, and customers can call if they have questions or experience any natural gas service issues.

If any customer smells natural gas, they should leave their home or business immediately and call Black Hills Energy's emergency service line, 800-694-8989, from a neighbor's home or by using a cell phone from outside the location. For safety reasons, do not use the phone in the building where the smell of natural gas was detected, nor turn off or on any switches, including lights, as the house is exited. If there is natural gas in the house, a spark of any kind could ignite it and cause serious personal injury and property damage.

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 — 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.

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