



## News Release

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### **BLACK HILLS ENERGY ADVISES CUSTOMERS TO KEEP SOIL, DIRT AND SHRUBBERY AWAY FROM NATURAL GAS METERS AND SERVICE VALVES**

DUBUQUE, Iowa, Sept. 24, 2009 – Black Hills Energy reminds customers to keep their outdoor natural gas meters visible at all times. Soil, dirt and shrubbery should be kept away from the shut-off valve located underneath the meter so it's easy to locate.

“When the meter is visible, it helps Black Hills Energy technicians and police and fire personnel to access the meter in case of an emergency at a customer's residence,” said Mark Ernst, operations manager for Black Hills Energy in Dubuque. “In addition, easily accessible meters help to ensure our technicians are able to read the customer's meter each month,” Ernst continued.

“With the recent flooding in Eastern Iowa, many homeowners are taking measures to correct the slope of dirt around their home to prevent future flooding. But its important customers remember not to tamper with or bury their meter, and to keep the meter's shut-off valve visible at all times,” said Ernst.

Black Hills Energy advises customers with natural gas meters or service valves that have been partially or fully buried to contact the company's 24-hour customer service center at 888-890-5554. Black Hills Energy will send a professional technician to inspect the natural gas meter free of charge. “For those that have buried meters, it's generally as simple as clearing away any dirt or soil,” said Ernst. “However, at an additional cost, some customers may prefer to have their meter set raised so they can slope the dirt away from their home to prevent future floods, and we encourage them to contact us so we can discuss their options.”

Black Hills Energy serves 149,500 natural gas customers in 130 Iowa 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](http://www.blackhillscorp.com).

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