



Media Contact:

Bob McKeon 402-935-4887

Black Hills Media Line 866-243-9002

BLACK HILLS ENERGY WEATHERIZING NEBRASKA HOMES THIS FALL *Keeping the Weather Outside*

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 1, 2009 – Fall means the cold winds of winter will soon be blowing in Nebraska, and that employees of Nebraska natural gas provider Black Hills Energy will again be weatherizing the homes of customers in its Nebraska service territory.

Black Hills' weatherization program, in its fourth year in some parts of the company, is a companywide program in which Black Hills employees weatherize homes of selected customers unable to do the work themselves because of age, health or financial reasons. The program also raises awareness among customers by demonstrating how to manage utility bills and reduce energy usage with simple, low-cost measures.

“A customer's monthly natural gas bill is determined by the price of natural gas and how much is used,” said Dan Mechtenberg, vice president of Nebraska natural gas operations, Black Hills Energy. “Natural gas is a domestic, abundant resource whose price is low. Yet using energy wisely is always a good idea and helping customers do that is a priority of ours. These steps taken in preparation for winter will also help customers conserve energy year-round.”

Black Hills weatherizes homes selected by city officials and community service agencies. Last year, Black Hills employees weatherized 124 homes in several states throughout the company's service territory.

In Nebraska, health and human service agencies and community service agencies aware of a weatherization need in a Black Hills-served community are invited to contact Black Hills Energy Nebraska Manager of External Affairs Jan Davis to discuss the

possibility of Black Hills providing its weatherization service in their community this fall. Davis' phone number is 402-935-4868; her e-mail address is jan.davis@blackhillscorp.com.

Black Hills Energy weatherization teams will perform a number of measures on the homes, which may include inspecting and cleaning the furnaces; replacing furnace filters; and installing weatherstripping, caulking, pressurized expanding foam, window plastic, outlet gaskets, water heater blanket on a water heater 10 years old or older, and water heater pipe insulation. Customers whose homes are weatherized by the company will also receive a complimentary package of light bulbs known as compact fluorescent lamps. Using CFLs helps save energy.

Fire Prevention Week 2009 is Oct. 4-10, so the company is also checking batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in homes it weatherizes this fall and replacing them if necessary. The company will also install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors if a home doesn't have them.

Black Hills Energy offers many other programs and services to help customers manage their natural gas bills and control energy usage, including a budget billing program to level out monthly payments and spread winter bills over the entire year. Additionally, Black Hills sponsors its own energy assistance program, Black Hills Cares, through which customer and employee contributions are matched by the company and forwarded to local agencies for residential energy assistance. Customers can indicate on their bill the amount they want to contribute monthly. In Nebraska, The Salvation Army's HeatShare energy assistance program disburses Black Hills Cares funds.

Black Hills also helps Nebraska customers manage their energy expenses through the Annual Price Option program, which locks in the per-therm price the customer pays for natural gas for one year regardless of changes in the market price of natural gas. Sign-up for the 2009-10 program ends Oct. 2.

For more information on programs and services from Black Hills Energy, contact the company's 24/7 Customer Service Center at 888-890-5554, or go to

www.blackhillsenergy.com. Nebraska customers with questions about APO should call a special APO information line, 800-753-7509.

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 natural gas and electric 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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