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BLACK HILLS ENERGY, CITY OF MILFORD PLANTING 2 TREES IN MILFORD PARK

YORK, Neb., Oct. 16, 2009 – Black Hills Energy and the City of Milford, Neb., are partnering to plant two trees at Uptown Park, near the corner of Third and South C streets in Milford, today at 11 a.m. as part of the Black Hills Energy Power of Trees program. Black Hills Energy is the natural gas provider in Milford.

Black Hills Energy contributed \$350 to the city for a 7-foot Swamp White Oak and a 7-foot Red Oak, and Black Hills and city employees are working together to plant the trees by the backstop in the park.

Black Hills partners with local volunteer groups to plant trees in communities the company serves as part of the company's Power of Trees program. Black Hills Power of Trees events were held in the spring in the Nebraska communities of Wayne, Ashland, Valley, Waverly and Geneva and this fall in Wilber in addition to today's planting in Milford. This is the third year for the program. Last year, Black Hills Corp. companies donated and helped to plant 266 trees throughout the companies' service territories.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, carefully positioned trees can save up to 25 percent of a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling.

“Just plant a tree, it's that simple,” said Cully Sila, South Region operations supervisor, Black Hills Energy. “The Power of Trees is more than a one-day event. Trees are an investment that reap a lifetime of reward. 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 we serve while spreading the message that everyone can plant trees. We hope this planting will be a catalyst in the community for additional tree-planting efforts.”

Black Hills Energy employees and their community partners plant trees in parks, on school grounds, in new public spaces and other areas. 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 reminds all customers to always call 811 for Digger's Hotline of Nebraska at least two business days, but not more than 10 business days, before digging to plant a tree, put in a fence or start any project where the soil is being disturbed so underground utility lines can be marked.

"Safety is a top priority for Black Hills Energy," said Sila. "A single call to Digger's Hotline helps everyone avoid the possibility of serious or fatal injury and the expensive cost of repairing natural gas service lines. It just doesn't make sense to skip this important step, even if all you're doing is a small amount of landscaping in your backyard."

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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