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220 YEARS OF COMBINED SERVICE WITH 7 BLACK HILLS ENERGY EMPLOYEES WHO ARE CELEBRATING SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES IN 2009

NORFOLK, Neb., Oct. 22, 2009 – Seven employees of Black Hills Energy’s North Region are celebrating 25-, 30- or 35-year service anniversaries this year.

“These seven employees have a combined total of 220 years of service, which means 220 years of natural gas utility experience in which to serve Black Hills Energy customers in northern Nebraska,” said Dan Mechtenberg, Black Hills Energy vice president of Nebraska operations. “Our employees and the experience they have is a great asset that we offer to the communities that we serve and to the customers who live in those communities.” North Region Black Hills Energy employees celebrating service anniversaries this year are:

- **David Morrow, special welder, Norfolk, Neb., 35 years of service.** Morrow joined the company in 1974 as a temporary laborer, becoming full time later that year. He was promoted to apprentice distribution fitter in 1975 and to schedule I distribution fitter in 1979, schedule 1 welder in 1988, and to his current position in 1989.
- **Daniel McDevitt, special service tech, West Point, Neb., 35 years of service.** McDevitt was hired as a temporary laborer in 1974 and became full time later that year. He was promoted to apprentice serviceman in 1975, schedule 1 serviceman in 1979 and to his current position in 1989.
- **Joseph Kramer, master construction and maintenance mechanic, Norfolk, 35 years of service.** Kramer joined the company in 1974 in Stanton, Neb., as an apprentice serviceman. In 1976 he was promoted to schedule 2 service man in Norfolk. In 1979 he transferred to schedule 2 distribution fitter and in 1981 was promoted to schedule 1 distribution fitter. In 1983, he was promoted to schedule 1 construction and maintenance mechanic, in 1984 to a schedule 1 foreperson and in 1991 to his current position.

- **Roger Oursland, special construction and maintenance mechanic, Norfolk, 30 years of service.** Oursland joined the company as a temporary laborer, moved to a full-time laborer's position and then was promoted to schedule 2 distribution fitter, all in 1979. In 1984, he was promoted to a schedule 1 distribution fitter and in 1991 to his current position.

- **Terrence Mimick, special service technician, Columbus, Neb., 30 years of service.** Mimick began his career with the company in Columbus in 1979 as a schedule II distribution fitter. In 1982, he became a schedule 2 service technician, and in 1985 he was promoted to his current position.

- **Diane Vitamvas, administrative assistant, Columbus, 30 years of service.** Vitamvas joined the company as a customer rep II in Schuyler, Neb., in 1979. She was promoted to customer rep I in 1983 and lead customer rep in 1993. In 1999, Vitamvas transferred to Columbus and in 2006 became an administrative assistant.

- **Scott Zaruba, North Region operations manager, Norfolk, 25 years of service.** Zaruba joined the company in 1984 in Schuyler as a service specialist 2 and was promoted to service operator tech I in 1990 and later that year to local manager in Limon, Colo. In 1992, Zaruba was promoted to customer service manager and in 1995 to customer service director II in Norfolk. He transferred to operations manager-gas in 2001 and was promoted to his current position in 2004.

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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