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### **BLACK HILLS ENERGY TEAM WEATHERIZES A HOME IN COLUMBUS** *Keeping the Weather Outside*

COLUMBUS, Neb., Oct. 23, 2009 – One home in Columbus, Neb., was weatherized today by employees of Black Hills Energy, Columbus’ natural gas provider, as part of the companywide Black Hills Energy weatherization program. The company has also weatherized six homes in Lincoln, Neb., this fall.

“Helping customers reduce their energy usage is a priority of ours,” said Chip Wical, Columbus operations supervisor for Black Hills Energy and leader of the company’s Columbus employee weatherization team. “Our weatherization program shares information with customers about measures they can take to make their homes more energy efficient. For some who can’t do the work themselves, we’re doing it for them.”

Black Hills Energy worked with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to identify a customer in Columbus who could not do the weatherization work because of age, health or physical limitations. Black Hills Energy provides weatherization to help those unable to do the work themselves and to raise awareness of the simple, low-cost home weatherization measures all customers can take to use energy more efficiently.

Weatherization measures performed by the Black Hills Energy weatherization teams include inspecting and cleaning 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. A pre-weatherization inspection of each home by Black Hills Energy determines what each requires.

The Columbus and larger Nebraska weatherization effort is part of a companywide undertaking in which Black Hills Energy weatherization teams across the organization's multi-state electric and natural gas service territory are weatherizing homes in other communities Black Hills Energy serves.

"It's in everyone's best interest to use energy wisely. Homeowners can do this by increasing the energy efficiency of their home," said Dan Mechtenberg, vice president of Nebraska natural gas operations, Black Hills Energy. "That's why helping our customers use energy efficiently is a priority for Black Hills Energy." Energy-saving tips are available at [www.bhehowto.com](http://www.bhehowto.com).

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.

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](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com).

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](http://www.blackhillscorp.com).

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