Black Hills Energy
Improving life with energy

News Release

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BLACK HILLS ENERGY TEAM WEATHERIZES HOME IN PAULLINA

Keeping the Weather Outside

PAULLINA, Iowa, Oct. 30, 2009 – Black Hills Energy employees yesterday weatherized a customer's home in Paullina. Each fall, Black Hills Energy employees provide weatherization services at no charge to selected homeowners in preparation for the winter heating season. In cooperation with the Iowa Community Action Association, local agencies choose homeowners who, due to financial or health constraints, are unable to weatherize their homes themselves.

"Helping customers reduce their energy use is a priority of ours," said Bob Faulkner, operations supervisor for Black Hills Energy in Spencer. "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."

This year, the Black Hills Energy team members will weatherize six homes across Iowa. Each home is first inspected by Black Hills Energy professionals to determine what might be needed. Then, Black Hills Energy weatherization teams undertake measures such as installing weatherstripping, caulk, pressurized expanding foam, window plastic, outlet gaskets, a water heater blanket and water heater pipe insulation.

And by collaborating with local organizations and businesses, Black Hills Energy is able to weatherize more homes. This year, Black Hills Energy will partner with local groups to weatherize approximately 130 homes in Dubuque, 30 homes in Maquoketa and 20 homes in Cresco.

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

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"Being energy efficient provides benefits year-round," said Faulkner. "Customers that use energy wisely can save money in the form of energy without having to sacrifice comfort. And our weatherization program helps educate and encourage customers about the many simple, low- and no-cost measure everyone can take to become energy efficient," continued Faulkner.

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 Iowa, the Iowa Community Action Partnership disburses Black Hills Cares funds.

And in Iowa, rebate programs are available, beginning with a free home energy audit. The rebates can help pay for insulation and energy efficient doors, appliances and furnaces. More information is at www.BHEHowTo.com or by calling 888-567-0799.

Black Hills Energy serves 149,500 natural gas customers in 130 Iowa communities, and is a proud recipient of the U.S. EPA 2009 Energy Star® Leadership in Housing Award. 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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