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BLACK HILLS EMPLOYEES ENCOURAGE HOME WEATHERIZATION

Weatherization program teaches homeowners about simple, low- and no-cost measures that can help save on energy costs

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 14, 2009 – Whether it is very cold or hot weather, it generally means higher utility bills, and Black Hills Corp.’s companywide weatherization program is showing homeowners that spending a few dollars and a weekend afternoon can lead to year-round energy savings. This fall, Black Hills employees, along with some community volunteers, partnered to weatherize 116 homes in six states.

“Using energy wisely is top of mind for most homeowners during any season,” said Dan Mechtenberg, vice president of Nebraska natural gas operations, Black Hills Energy. “Our weatherization program teaches customers that there are simple ways to reduce energy consumption, lower utility bills and still stay comfortable indoors.”

As an ongoing tradition, Black Hills employees provide weatherization services at no charge to selected homeowners in preparation for the winter heating season. In cooperation with local energy assistance agencies, homeowners are chosen who, due to financial, age or health limitations, are unable to weatherize their homes themselves.

“Weatherizing homes is part of our larger outreach effort to teach customers about the benefits of energy efficiency measures,” Mechtenberg said. “Being energy efficient provides benefits year-round. Customers can save money and use less energy without having to sacrifice comfort. For those reasons, no matter the season, we encourage customers to make the simple changes that can help them reap the benefits throughout the year.”

Homes chosen for the weatherization program by local non-profit organizations are first inspected by Black Hills professionals to determine what might be needed. Then, Black Hills volunteer weatherization teams undertake measures that might include weather-stripping, caulking, pressurized expanding foam, window plastic, outlet gaskets, a water heater blanket and water heater pipe insulation.

Twelve homes in seven communities were weatherized by Black Hills Energy teams this fall in the company's Nebraska natural gas service territory. For more information on ways to save energy, go to www.blackhillsenergy.com and click on Energy-Saving Tips.

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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