



News Release

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**BLACK HILLS ENERGY ANNOUNCES DAN MESSERSMITH
AS SERVICE TECHNICIAN IN FOREST CITY AREA**

FOREST CITY, Iowa, Feb. 1, 2010 – Steve Stone, operations manager for Black Hills Energy’s Iowa natural gas operations, announced Dan Messersmith has joined the company as a service technician serving Forest City, Iowa, and surrounding communities. In this position, Messersmith’s responsibilities will include leak survey investigation, natural gas system maintenance and general customer service in the Iowa communities of Fertile, Forest City, Hanlontown, Joice, Klemme, Lake Mills and Leland. He will also perform appliance repair through Service Guard, a division of Black Hills Energy that offers service protection plans including heating, air conditioning, water heater, and clothes washer and dryer repair services.

Messersmith brings 25 years of machine maintenance and repair experience to Black Hills Energy, which he gained while working at Winnebago Motor Homes.

“Dan’s technical talents coupled with his superior customer service skills make him an ideal service technician for Black Hills Energy,” said Stone. “Our Service Guard customers can expect to receive the same great service from Dan that they have come to rely on over the years. He has lived in Forest City for many years and has a long history of community involvement. We’re very pleased to have Dan join the Black Hills Energy Team in Forest City.”

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 Denver 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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