



News Release

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BLACK HILLS ENERGY ANNOUNCES BRIAN KRETZ AS OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR IN SPENCER AREA

SPENCER, Iowa, Feb. 1, 2010 – Steve Stone, operations manager for Black Hills Energy’s Iowa natural gas operations, has announced Brian Kretz as the company’s operations supervisor serving Spencer, Iowa, and surrounding communities. In this position, Kretz will direct and supervise the engineering, maintenance and operation of the natural gas distribution system serving area customers. Kretz will also project manage local appliance repair operations 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.

Kretz formerly served as a distribution engineer for Black Hills Energy in Dubuque, Iowa, where he managed projects including pipeline replacement and distribution system maintenance. Kretz has also worked at A.Y. McDonald Mfg. Co. as a product engineer for 5 years, and has a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Wisconsin—Platteville.

“Brian brings extensive experience of the natural gas industry and business operations to his new roll at the company,” said Stone. “His technical talents coupled with his superior customer service skills make Brian an ideal operations supervisor for Black Hills Energy, and we are pleased to have him join the Spencer Team.”

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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