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**BLACK HILLS ENERGY PREPARED TO HELP
NEB. CUSTOMERS MAINTAIN THEIR NATURAL GAS SERVICE**

*Customers with billing issues should contact the company
by March 31 to see what their options are*

LINCOLN, Neb., March 15, 2010 – The abundance of clean, reliable natural gas has contributed to lower prices than last year, and that trend is anticipated to continue. But the long, cold winter has left some people struggling to pay their gas bill, and Black Hills Energy wants to help.

Black Hills is urging customers with bill payment issues to either call the company's 24-hour customer service center at 888-890-5554 or visit www.blackhillsenergy.com by March 31. That date marks the end of Nebraska's "Cold Weather Rule." The rule allows for special winter heating season disconnection and reconnection procedures for residential natural gas customers between Nov. 1 and March 31, including customers approved for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) who have provided documentation to Black Hills Energy.

Effective April 1, residential customers who are behind on their gas payments are subject to the disconnect process. Customers may contact the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to see if they qualify for LIHEAP or other energy assistance, or Black Hills can identify energy assistance resources for them if they contact the company.

"All Black Hills Energy customers have benefited from lower prices for natural gas," said Trent Cozad, vice president, Gas Supply Services, Black Hills Energy, "but we recognize customer bills are higher because of the colder-than-normal weather this winter and resulting higher natural gas usage. Prices this winter in Nebraska are approximately 15 percent lower than last year. Barring unforeseen economic turns or weather-related interruptions, the trend toward these lower prices is forecast to continue for the near future. However, we do understand that some customers face challenges, and we want to help them maintain their natural gas service."

Black Hills Energy customers who want to help those in need can contribute a monthly or one-time contribution to the Black Hills Cares energy assistance program anytime. Black Hills matches contributions dollar-for-dollar before giving the proceeds to The Salvation Army

HeatShare program for distribution to families in need. Customer bill-stubs include a donation form, and more information is available at www.blackhillsenergy.com.

Black Hills Energy serves 196,320 natural gas customers in 107 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 — which is based in Rapid City, S.D., and has corporate offices in Denver and Omaha, Neb. The company serves 763,300 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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