



News Release

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NATURAL GAS SAFETY ADVISORY FROM BLACK HILLS ENERGY

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa, March 19, 2010 – With flooding in the forecast for Iowa, Black Hills Energy is prepared should there be weather-related service issues and outages. The National Weather Service has issued flood warning alerts for several counties throughout Iowa, although water is anticipated to begin receding by Monday. Black Hills Energy’s ability to respond quickly is the result of actions taken before flooding actually hits, including:

- Coordinating efforts with local emergency officials if a community is or anticipated to be impacted by flooding.
- Black Hills Energy’s field resource center operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The center continues to work 24/7 and is responsible for dispatching Black Hills Energy service crews.

For safety reasons, if flooding were imminent, Black Hills Energy would temporarily shut off natural gas service to customers in the affected area. If weather related issues were to impact service, the company would provide ongoing service restoration updates to affected customers.

“It’s an important safety measure to turn off the natural gas flow when appliances are submerged in the basement,” said Tracy Peterson, Black Hills Energy vice president of Iowa natural gas operations. “The risk is the extinguishment of pilot lights on natural gas equipment such as water heaters, potentially allowing natural gas to enter the home.”

If natural gas meters and appliances are submerged in flood waters, they must be inspected for damage by a technician before service is restored. “Flood waters carry silt and other contaminants that could damage natural gas meters and appliances such as water heaters, furnaces and air conditioners,” Peterson said. “A Black Hills Energy technician must inspect the metering equipment and an appliance repair professional must inspect natural gas appliance equipment before service can be restored.”

Black Hills Energy advises its customers to be alert to the smell of natural gas if flood waters would submerge their natural gas meter or enter basements where furnaces and water heaters are located. If you ever think carbon monoxide is getting into your home or if you think you smell natural gas, leave the premises immediately. Do not use the phone in the house or

turn off any lights as you leave the house. Call Black Hills Energy's 24-hour emergency service line at 800-694-8989 from a nearby location to be safe.

Black Hills Energy serves 149,700 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 — based in Rapid City, S.D., with 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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