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**BLACK HILLS ENERGY ADVISES NEBRASKANS:  
CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG – IT’S THE LAW!**

LINCOLN, Neb., March 29, 2010 – Black Hills Energy serves its Nebraska customers through an underground, 6,919-mile network of natural gas pipes. But just because the company’s natural gas distribution system is not visible doesn’t mean it’s not there. As the weather warms and the gardening and construction season begins, Black Hills Energy reminds all customers and contractors to call 811 for a utility line locate before digging.

“Safety is a top priority for Black Hills Energy,” said Dan Mechtenberg, Black Hills Energy vice president of Nebraska operations. “We’ve invested \$56.6 million in our Nebraska natural gas distribution system since 2006 to ensure the service we provide is safe and reliable. To avoid costly damage and more importantly to be safe, a single call to Digger’s Hotline of Nebraska before digging helps everyone avoid the possibility of serious or fatal injury; disruption of service to a home, building or an entire area of the community; and the considerable expense of repairing underground utilities.”

Digger’s Hotline of Nebraska is the state’s utility line locating service that is provided free of charge by Black Hills Energy and other participating utilities in Nebraska. Digger’s Hotline of Nebraska phone numbers are 811, 800-331-5666 statewide in Nebraska, or 344-3565 in metropolitan Omaha.

While striking underground utility lines is a problem anytime, the frequency of “line hits” increases during warmer months because homeowners are working in their yards and contractors are completing outdoor projects.

The Nebraska Legislature passed a law in 1994 called the One-Call Notification System Act that states that everyone who excavates or disturbs the surface of the ground

must first contact Digger's Hotline two business days in advance to have all underground utilities located. This legislation includes – but is not limited to – contractors, homeowners and personal property owners and includes commercial projects and also home projects such as planting a garden or tree or putting in a fence.

Once Digger's Hotline receives a request, it notifies all affected utilities. Utility representatives are then sent to mark the location of any underground lines and facilities, including for water, sewer, storm sewer, gas, electric and cable TV. Each line is color coded; yellow paint or flags, for example, mark the location of pipelines carrying natural gas, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials.

Besides having to pay for costly repairs if underground facilities are damaged, an individual or company that doesn't call for a locate and strikes a gas pipeline could be fined up to \$10,000 for damaging the underground infrastructure. That amount can increase each day a service interruption persists up to a maximum of \$500,000.

Nathan Stewart, state compliance specialist for Black Hills Energy and member of the Digger's Hotline of Nebraska board, said, "Be safe and ensure the safety of everyone around you by calling 811 before you dig. It's free, it's easy and it's the law."

Black Hills Energy serves approximately 196,000 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](http://www.blackhillscorp.com).

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