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### **BLACK HILLS ENERGY BRINGING POWER OF TREES TO SCHUYLER, NEB.**

COLUMBUS, Neb., April 28, 2010 – In recognition of Arbor Day and as part of the Black Hills Energy Power of Trees program, Black Hills Energy and Schuyler (Neb.) Community Schools are partnering to plant 13 trees at Schuyler Elementary School, 2404 Denver St., Schuyler, Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

Natural gas service provider Black Hills Energy is donating nine Blue Spruce and four Flowering Crab Trees to the school district. Black Hills Energy employees and students who are members of the Schuyler FFA are working together to plant the trees. Elementary school students will also help with the plantings and FFA members will stress to them the importance of trees.

Black Hills Energy partners with cities it serves or local volunteer groups to plant trees in communities where the company provides energy service as part of the company's Power of Trees program. Black Hills Power of Trees events are also being held in the Nebraska communities of Hickman, La Vista, Tecumseh and Papillion. This is the fourth year for the program. Last year, Black Hills Corp. companies donated or helped to plant 306 trees throughout the companies' service territories.

"Trees help conserve energy, sustain the environment and improve the landscape," said Chip Wical, Black Hills Energy North Region operations supervisor. "With this program, we work to improve the environment and help beautify communities we serve while spreading the message that everyone can plant trees. We hope this planting will be a catalyst for additional tree-planting efforts."

Black Hills Energy employees and their community partners plant trees in parks, on school grounds, in new public spaces and other areas. Trees lower cooling and heating costs by providing shade in summer and windbreaks in winter. Carefully positioned trees can save up to

25 percent of a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Trees help purify the air by absorbing pollutants. They also help stop erosion, improve neighborhoods by serving as sound barriers and create habitat for birds and other wildlife, even in urban settings.

As beneficial as trees are, Black Hills Energy reminds customers not to plant trees under power lines or over any buried utility infrastructure and to always call Digger's Hotline of Nebraska before planting trees, shrubbery, gardens or otherwise disturbing the soil. Utilities spend significant sums on tree trimming to clear lines of branches. But interference can be avoided both by the type of tree that is selected as well as where the tree is planted.

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 402-344-3565 in metropolitan Omaha. Anyone 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.

"Call before you dig," said Wical. "A single call to Digger's Hotline, as required by Nebraska state law, helps avoid the possibility of serious or fatal injury and the expensive cost of repairing natural gas service lines and other buried utility infrastructure."

Black Hills Energy serves 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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