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### **Black Hills Energy Names Vice President of Operations**

*Electric Utility Taps Chris Burke to Support Growth and Lead Expanding Market*

**Pueblo, Colo., May 10, 2010** – Black Hills Energy - Colorado Electric announced today that after completing a thorough internal and external candidate search, it has hired Christopher (Chris) Burke as Vice President of Operations. Burke began his tenure at Black Hills Energy today, Monday, May 10, and in his new role, will focus on operational performance, strategy development and execution, and partnering with Black Hills Energy’s many stakeholders to continue to support the growth of the southern Colorado communities where it operates.

Burke comes to Black Hills Energy from Alliant Energy, Inc. where he spent six plus years in management positions including Director of Energy Market Operations, Director of Business and Financial Performance and was the Plant Manager at Alliant Energy’s 730MW coal-fired electric power generating station. Burke has also held prominent positions in other North American industries over his nearly 25 year career, including eight years of service as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy.

“Chris will bring critical leadership experience to Black Hills Energy and we are pleased to have him join our team,” said Stuart Wevik, Vice President of Electric Utilities for Black Hills Corp. “His strong background in both business and utilities make him a great addition to the Black Hills Energy team and to the community.”

Burke graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a B.S. in General Engineering, and received his MBA and Juris Doctorate from the Darden Graduate School of Business and University of Virginia School of Law.

**Black Hills Energy - Colorado Electric**

Black Hills Energy serves 93,300 electric customers in 21 southeastern Colorado 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 — 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](http://www.blackhillscorp.com).

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