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BLACK HILLS ENERGY TECHNICIANS WORKING TO RESTORE NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO SCHUYLER, NEB., CUSTOMERS

COLUMBUS, Neb., June 15, 2010 – Technicians from Black Hills Energy, provider of natural gas service in Schuyler, Neb., worked with Schuyler emergency officials to shut off approximately 25 of the city’s nearly 1,600 natural gas meters due to flooding in northeastern Schuyler. Natural gas service to the remainder of Schuyler is unaffected and operating as normal.

“We turn off the natural gas at locations affected by flooding as a safety measure to protect our customers,” said Chip Wical, Black Hills Energy North Region operations supervisor. “It is important to avoid the risk of natural gas leaks that may occur when equipment or appliances are submerged and pilot lights are extinguished.”

As floodwaters recede, Black Hills Energy employees begin conducting safety checks to restore natural gas service to affected homes and businesses and relight pilot lights. Natural gas meters and appliances that have been submerged in floodwaters must be inspected by a technician before service is restored.

“Floodwaters carry silt and other contaminants that damage natural gas meters and appliances such as water heaters, furnaces and air conditioners,” said Chip Wical, Black Hills Energy North Region operations supervisor. “A Black Hills Energy technician ensures the natural gas metering equipment is working properly, and an appliance repair professional inspects natural gas appliances and equipment prior to service restoration.”

Wical asked that as customers return home and are ready for natural gas service to be restored, to call Black Hills Energy so that technicians can perform the free safety inspection and restore service. Black Hills Energy’s customer service number is 888-890-5554. Black Hills customer service associates are available around the clock, seven days a week.

Homeowners will need to work with their homeowner's insurance carrier to discuss appliance and equipment repairs that may be required.

As a reminder, if any customer smells natural gas, they should leave the home or business immediately and call Black Hills Energy on a cell phone outside the building or use a neighbor's phone. Do not use the phone in the location where the smell of natural gas was detected, nor turn off any lights when exiting. If there is a natural gas leak, a spark could ignite it. Black Hills Energy's 24-hour emergency number is 800-694-8989.

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.

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