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NORFOLK, NEB., NATURAL GAS SAFETY ADVISORY FROM BLACK HILLS ENERGY

NORFOLK, Neb., June 15, 2010 – Technicians from Black Hills Energy, provider of natural gas service in Norfolk, Neb., are working with Norfolk emergency officials to temporarily shut off natural gas service to some customers in south Norfolk affected by flooding.

“We turn off the natural gas at locations affected by flooding as a safety measure to protect our customers,” said Scott Zaruba, Black Hills Energy North Region operations manager. “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.”

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.

When floodwaters recede, Black Hills Energy employees will 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 Zaruba. “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.”

Zaruba 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.

Black Hills Energy is prepared when there is weather-related service issues and outages, and the company's ability to respond quickly is the result of actions taken before flooding actually occurs, 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, responsible for dispatching Black Hills Energy service crews, operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, as does the company's customer service center which receives customer calls.

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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