



News Release

Media Contacts:

Janaan Harp 402-680-8928
Black Hills Media Line 866-243-9002

**BLACK HILLS ENERGY ANNOUNCES NICK GARDNER
AS WESTERN IOWA OPERATIONS MANAGER**

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa, June 30, 2010 — Tracy Peterson, Black Hills Energy vice president of Iowa gas operations, has announced Nick Gardner as the company's western Iowa operations manager. In this position, Gardner will direct and manage the engineering, maintenance and operation of the natural gas distribution system serving area customers. Gardner will also manage local appliance repair operations through Service Guard, a division of Black Hills Energy that offers service protection plans including heating, air conditioning, water heater and clothes washer and dryer repair services.

Gardner formerly served as an engineer for Black Hills Energy's Iowa gas operations and was responsible for managing projects including pipeline replacement and distribution system maintenance. He has also served as a supervisor for the company's Newton and Council Bluffs districts. Gardner has associate's and bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering from Iowa Western Community College and The University of Iowa, respectively.

"Nick brings extensive experience of the natural gas industry and business operations to his new role at the company," Peterson said. "His technical talents coupled with his superior customer service skills make Nick an ideal operations manager for Black Hills Energy, and we are pleased to have him on the western Iowa team."

Black Hills Energy - Iowa Gas

Black Hills Energy serves 149,700 natural gas customers in 130 Iowa communities, and is a proud recipient of the U.S. EPA 2010 ENERGY STAR® Leadership in Housing Award. 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.

###