BLACK HILL ENERGY OFFER FOUR SAFE DIGGING TIPS FOR SPRING

Rapid City, South Dakota—April 17, 2018—April is National Safe Digging Month, and Black Hills Energy is providing these four tips for safe digging to emphasize what is always the utility's first priority: public and employee safety.

1. Most important, whether you're a homeowner planting a shrub or a contractor using a backhoe, always "Call Before You Dig" by dialing 811 toll-free. Utility specialists will mark the approximate location of buried utility lines at your site with color-coded paint or flags – at no charge to you. Yellow, for example, marks gas lines.

   In South Dakota, Call Before You Dig by calling 811 two or more working days before you plan to dig. Just call 811 or schedule online at ww.sd811.com. If multiple contractors will be digging, each must contact Black Hills Energy. Whether you're a homeowner or a contractor, it's free, it's safe and it's the law.

2. Spray paint a white line around your planned excavation site. "White-lining" helps the line locator understand your plans and reduces the chance for project delays if the line locator has to return to mark additional areas.

3. Always hand-dig near gas facilities. Whether using a shovel or heavy equipment, use care around natural gas facilities. Just a nick can create a weak spot that will develop into a leak.

4. Project delays? If you don't dig within 10 days of having the lines marked, contact 811 again. At no charge, line locators will gladly return to re-mark the lines.

"Public safety and the welfare of work crews and our employees are always our first concern," said Nick Gardner, vice president of electric operations for Black Hills Energy in South Dakota, "Whether your project is big or small, safe digging is critical to avoid an incident that could become a tragedy."

There are severe penalties attached to non-compliance with the Call Before You Dig laws. Striking an underground utility line could leave you with the bill for expensive repairs to public or private property, to blame for a service outage to a neighborhood or entire community, or responsible for grave injury to everyone within a wide area.

Black Hills Energy
Black Hills Energy is a natural gas and electric utility serving 1.2 million customers in eight states: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. Black Hills Energy is part of Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH), a growth-oriented, vertically integrated energy company based in Rapid City, South Dakota, with a tradition of improving life with energy and a vision to be the energy partner of choice. Black Hills Corp. also generates wholesale electricity and produces natural gas, oil and coal. More information is available at www.blackhillscorp.com and www.blackhillsenergy.com.

Media Contact:

Mutch Usera	605-484-1476
	Mutch.usera@blackhillscorp.com
24-Hour Media Assistance	866-243-9002