



House Committee on Utilities and Telecommunications

Black Hills Energy

Steven Cowen, Governmental Affairs Manager – Kansas

Committee Introduction - January 23, 2013

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Steven Cowen and I serve as Black Hills Energy's Governmental Affairs Manager for Kansas.

Black Hills Energy provides natural gas service to 110,000 customers in 58 Kansas communities. Our first priority is always customer and employee safety. As a publicly held utility, Black Hills Energy's Kansas operations and rates are regulated by the Kansas Corporation Commission. Our service territory includes our state headquarters in Lawrence with regional offices in Wichita, Liberal, Garden City, Dodge City and Goodland.

After safety, our many other areas of focus include reliable service, competitive rates, quality customer service, community support and economic development. In addition, our non-regulated Service Guard division provides appliance repair plans and services in Kansas and three other states, often to customers in rural settings.

We are responsible for nearly 3,000 miles of natural gas pipeline in the state and deliver approximately 27 BCF of natural gas through those pipelines each year. Our customer base is predominately residential, and our expertise supports business, industrial and irrigation customers as well. Our Technical Services division provides guidance and hands-on support to private and municipal customers in the safe, economical design, construction, maintenance and operation of natural gas systems.

Our 122 employees are improving life with energy—the energy of natural gas, and the personal energy they devote to municipal improvements and economic development in partnership with friends, neighbors and associates in the communities we call home.

Black Hills Energy is a subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation, a diversified energy company with a tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice. The company, which is headquartered in Rapid City, S.D. , serves 762,000 utility customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The company's non-regulated businesses generate wholesale electricity and produce natural gas, oil and coal. We partner to produce results that improve life with energy.

I thank you for your time and look forward to working with you in the legislative session. Should you have any questions or comments I can be reached at 785-832-3938 or steven.cowen@blackhillscorp.com.