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Iowa Utilities Board customer meetings begin August 10 on farm tap natural gas service proposal by Black Hills Energy

(Des Moines) – The Iowa Utilities Board reminds customers receiving natural gas service from Black Hills Energy Company (BHE) of six public meetings scheduled by the Board beginning August 10, 2016, in Docket No. [SPU-2015-0039](#), and [TF-2015-0352](#).

The meetings will provide an opportunity for customers to provide feedback on a farm tap safety plan filed with the Board by BHE regarding proposed changes to services provided by the company to its approximately 1,700 Iowa farm tap customers.

The following customer meeting dates, each will begin at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- 1) Wednesday, August 10, 2016, DMACC Newton Campus, 600 N. 2nd Avenue West, Newton, Iowa;
- 2) Tuesday, August 23, 2016, Spencer Area Activity Center, 104 E. 4th Street, Spencer, Iowa;
- 3) Wednesday, August 24, 2016, Council Bluffs Public Library, 400 Willow Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa;
- 4) Monday, August 29, 2016, Boulders Conference Center, 2507 Boulders Drive, Denison, Iowa;
- 5) Wednesday, September 14, 2016, Manchester Fire Department, 400 E. Main Street, Manchester, Iowa, at 6:30 p.m.; and
- 6) Tuesday, September 20, 2016, Webster City Community Theater, 1001 Willson Avenue, Webster City, Iowa.

Farm tap customers are those whose natural gas fuel line connects directly with the interstate natural gas pipeline owned by Northern Natural Gas Company (NNG).

BHE provides natural gas distribution service to farm tap customers on behalf of NNG, including billing, customer service, responses to gas leaks, maintenance of odorizers, delivery pressure tests, and consultation on the installation and repair of customer-owned facilities.

(MORE)

On November 25, 2015, BHE filed with the Board a proposal that establish minimum safety standards for farm taps as a condition of service; creation of a mandatory testing program; utility replacement and ownership of customer-owned natural gas service lines; authorization for recovery of replacement capital costs; and request for an accounting order to defer testing costs until the company's next general utility rate case.

On July 5, 2016, the Iowa Utilities Board (Board) issued [an order](#) addressing a revised customer notice and the BHE request and ordered BHE to send the amended customer notice to all of its customers since all customers may be impacted depending on the final outcome of the case.

The Board's July 5 order also established a new intervention date for Monday, September 26, 2016. This new date is after the customer meetings and will give potentially affected customers or any other interested parties the opportunity to decide whether to intervene after having a chance to participate in the customer meetings.

Following the intervention date, the Board will set a procedural schedule for further actions in this docket.

Customers may provide comments regarding this proposed plan by using the following: an electronic comment form available on the Board's Web site at iub.iowa.gov, by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov, by postal mail to the Iowa Utilities Board, Docket No. SPU-2015-0039, 1375 E. Court Ave., RM 69, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069, or by calling the Board's Customer Service staff toll-free at 877-565-4450.

To review the documents in this case, visit the Board's Electronic Filing System (EFS) at: <https://efs.iowa.gov/efs/ShowDocketSummary.do?docketNumber=SPU-2015-0039> and click the "Documents" tab.

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