

# Public Hearings for Black Hill Natural Gas Rate Hike

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) has scheduled three public hearings to receive customer input regarding Black Hills Energy's request for an increase in its natural gas rates. Black Hills is asking the IUB to approve a 2.9% increase to provide an additional \$4.7 million in annual revenue.

Black Hills serves 763,300 natural gas and electric customers in seven states, including 149,700 natural gas customers in Iowa. Black Hills says the new revenue will let it recover \$17.2 million it has invested since 2008 to replace pipe and other equipment for its Iowa natural gas distribution system.

Black Hills began collecting a temporary 1.6% (\$2.6 million) rate increase on June 18, 2010. The IUB has until April 2011 to make a final decision.

If the IUB eventually denies a rate increase, or approves an increase of less than the 1.6% temporary rate, Black Hills must refund any excess amount collected plus interest.

Consumer interests will be represented by the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA). The OCA is a separate division of the Iowa Attorney General's office responsible for representing consumers and the public before the Iowa Utilities Board.

## ***Public Hearing Schedule***

- **Newton**: Tuesday, June 29, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – DMACC Auditorium, 600 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.
- **Dubuque**: Wednesday, June 30, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building, 350 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **Council Bluffs**: Thursday, July 1, 2010, 6:30 p.m. - Public Library, 400 Willow Ave.

If you are unable to attend one of these hearings, written comments may also be mailed to the Iowa Utilities Board, Executive Secretary, Docket number RPU-2010-0002, 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-0069

Comments may also be submitted through email to [iubcustomer@iub.state.ia.us](mailto:iubcustomer@iub.state.ia.us) or through the IUB web site: [http://www.state.ia.us/iub/forms/CustServ/form\\_rpu102.html](http://www.state.ia.us/iub/forms/CustServ/form_rpu102.html).